

California Drivers Handbook

2003

Gray Davis, Governor
State of California
Maria Contreras-Sweet, Secretary
Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
Steven Gourley, Director
Department of Motor Vehicles



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Governor's Message for 2003

California Driver Handbook and Vehicle Code

Fellow Californians:

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has made many customer service improvements to better meet your needs. Heeding requests from Californians, DMV has improved its hours of operations. Last July, the largest and the most urban field offices began offering a one-Saturday-per month schedule (usually the third Saturday of each month) to enable the public to conduct DMV business on a weekend. These offices are closed on the Monday immediately preceding the Saturday opening, so there is no additional cost to the taxpayers. The change in hours will make it easier for customers to take care of their DMV business one Saturday per month.



DMV is also installing state-of-the-art queuing systems in the large and medium-sized offices to make licensing and registration processes more customer-friendly. This "DMV-Q" system allows field office staff to prioritize transactions and make sure that service is provided more efficiently.

The DMV now has both English and Spanish language web sites to describe the requirements for the various services offered. Using these web sites, customers can be better prepared and will likely make fewer visits to a field office or spend less time calling for information. DMV's improved Knowledge Base (in Spanish and English) provides answers to the most frequently asked DMV-related questions. I urge you to take advantage of DMV's online services (accessible at www.dmv.ca.gov), which include making appointments, renewing vehicle registration, and ordering special or Environmental License Plates. Please let our field offices know how they can meet their goal of better serving Californians by filling out survey forms available in every field office.

Sincerely,

Gray Davis

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Department of Motor Vehicles
Legal Office
P.O. Box 932382
Sacramento, CA 94232-3820

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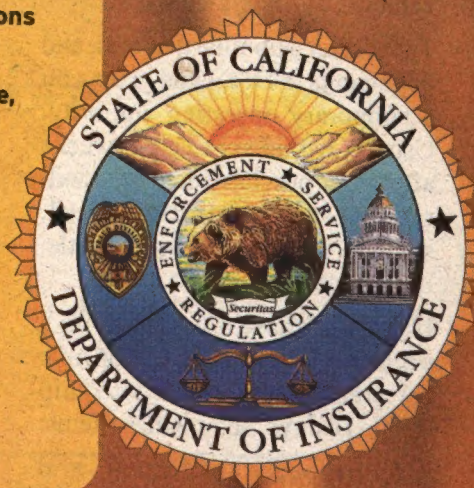
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SERVICE OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

VEHICLE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

This is a brief summary of California's vehicle registration requirements. Detailed information is contained on the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) website at www.dmv.ca.gov or in brochures entitled "Fast Facts" or "How To" which are available by mail or by calling 1-800-777-0133.

Visit DMV online to make an appointment or call 1-800-777-0133.

Registering a California Vehicle

When you purchase a new or used vehicle from a licensed California dealer, the dealer collects sales tax and fees to register and title the vehicle.

The dealer submits the fees and documents to DMV and gives you a temporary operating authority. Usually within six to eight weeks after your purchase date, you will receive a Registration Card, stickers, and a Certificate of Title, if appropriate.

If you **purchase** a vehicle from a private party, you are responsible for transferring the ownership within **10 days**. Submit these items:

- A properly endorsed and completed Certificate of Title or Application for Duplicate Title (REG 227).
- Smog certification provided by the seller, if required.
- Use tax payment, if required.

- Odometer Mileage Disclosure statement, if required.
- Appropriate DMV fees.

When you **sell or transfer** a vehicle, report it to DMV within **5 days** on the Notice of Release of Liability form (REG 138). Enter the name and address of the purchaser and the date you sold or transferred the vehicle. Complete the entire form.

Registering an Out-of-State Vehicle

If your vehicle is registered in another state or foreign country, you must register the vehicle in California within **20 days** after you become a resident or get a job. (See pages 2 and 3.)

Nonresident military personnel and their spouses may operate their vehicles in California with valid home state license plates or until the plates issued from their last duty station expire. They may renew the registration in their home state before it expires or register the vehicle in California.

Items needed to register all out-of-state vehicles are:

- Completed and signed Application for Registration (REG 343).
- Verification of the vehicle completed by DMV or an Auto Club employee.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS, continued

- Out-of-state title and/or currently issued out-of-state registration card, if the title is not submitted.
 - Smog certification (Vehicles that are 30 or more model years old are exempt from smog certification.)
 - Weight certificate for commercial vehicles only.
 - Appropriate DMV fees.
 - Completed Odometer Mileage Disclosure statement, if applicable.
-

DMV INFORMATION

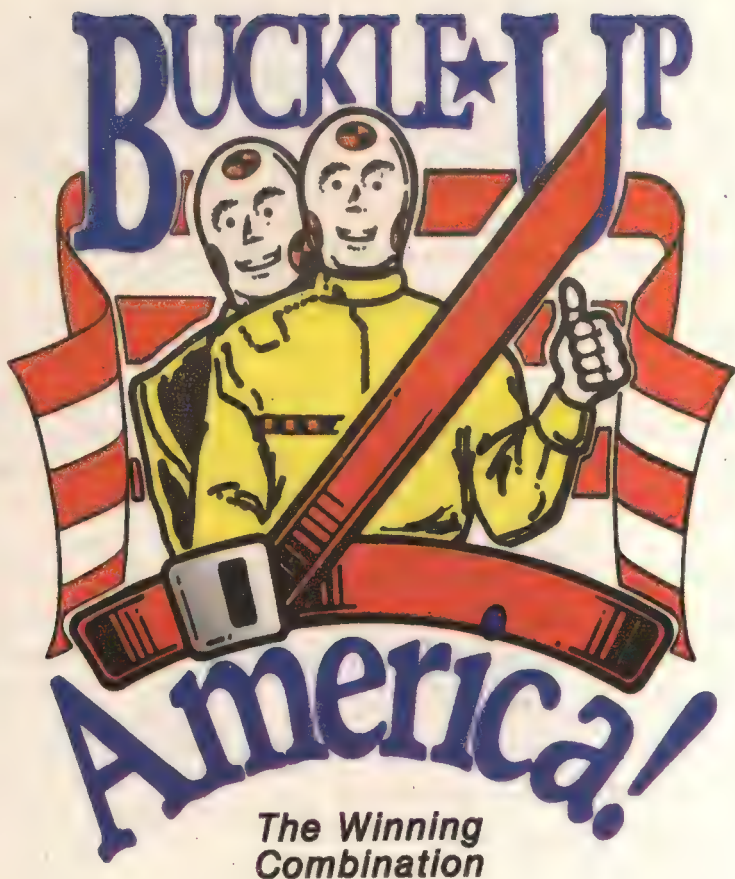
DMV field offices have varying business hours and days of service. Most offices are open for Saturday service (8 AM - 12 PM) once a month (usually the third Saturday). A few offices offer only driver license or vehicle registration service. Check the State Government section of your local phone book.

Visit DMV's website: www.dmv.ca.gov for information about:

- Appointments
 - Field office—locations, hours, directions, phone numbers
 - Ordering personalized plates
 - Driver license and identification card information
 - Vehicle/Vessel registration information
 - Forms—for downloading
 - Publications—handbooks, brochures, sample tests
 - Links to other state and federal agencies
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DISCLAIMER

Fees mentioned in this handbook are subject to legislative change.

When using this handbook, please remember that it is only a summary of the laws and regulations. DMV, law enforcement, and courts follow the full and exact language of the law contained in the *California Vehicle Code*. If there is a conflict, this handbook cannot be relied upon as law. You may buy a copy of the *Vehicle Code* at any DMV office or visit our website at www.dmv.ca.gov.

ACCURATE IDENTIFICATION

The California driver license (DL) and identification (ID) card—their reliability, integrity, confidentiality, etc.—is of prime concern to all levels of government, and the private sector as well.

It becomes critical that these documents be completely authenticated and accurate in order to positively and uniquely identify each individual. The California Legislature has declared the driver license and ID card as the primary identification documents in this state. California state law requires that all applicants for an original California DL/ID card submit proof of legal presence in the United States (U.S.) as authorized under federal law. Your true full name, as shown on your legal presence document, will appear on your DL/ID card.

Therefore, when applying for an original DL/ID card, you must present an acceptable birth date/

legal presence document and/or true full name document and provide your social security number. If the name on your out-of-state DL/ID card is different from the name on your birth date/legal presence document, you must also bring in an acceptable true full name document. (See page 15)

Your thumb print* will be taken. Your picture will also be taken. For any other DL/ID card transaction, you are required to present acceptable photo identification to safeguard the accuracy and integrity of the Department's documents.

An acceptable birth date/legal presence or true full name document is one produced by an issuing authority such as a county or state. This document is a *certified copy of the original* (the original is always retained by the issuing authority) and will contain an impressed seal or an original stamped impression. The certified copy will be returned to you. If you make a copy of the *certified copy*, DMV will not accept it for birth date/legal presence or true full name verification.

These are some of the acceptable birth date/legal presence documents: U.S. Birth Certificate, U.S. Certificate of Report of Birth Abroad, Proof of Indian Blood Degree, U.S. Passport, U.S. Armed Forces ID Cards, Certificate of Naturalization, Certificate of Citizenship, Resident Alien Card, foreign passport, or Mexican Border Crossing Card with a valid I-94.

*Throughout this handbook, the term "thumb print" will be used to mean a thumb print or finger print, if you have no thumbs.

Your social security number will be verified with the Social Security Administration.

THE CALIFORNIA DRIVER LICENSE

A driver license shows that you have been given permission by the State of California to drive on public roadways. You may apply for a license at most offices of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

You will receive a license after you have paid the fee, correctly answered questions about the law and safety rules, shown that your physical and mental condition is satisfactory, demonstrated your ability to drive safely, and have no outstanding actions on your driver record. If you have a medical condition or a disability, DMV may require you to take a driving test and/or present a statement from your physician regarding your condition.

WHO MUST HAVE A LICENSE

California Residents

If you are a California resident and drive a motor vehicle on a public highway or in a parking facility open to the public, you must have a California driver license.

Residents who may not need a California driver license are:

1. Members of the Armed Forces or civilian employees of the United States Government who only drive vehicles owned or

controlled by the United States, on federal government business.

2. Persons who drive farming vehicles which are not normally used on public highways.
3. Persons who drive legally registered off-highway vehicles or snowmobiles, while going straight across a highway (other than a freeway).

California Service Persons Away From Home

If you are out of state on active military service in the United States Armed Forces, your California driver license will continue to be valid beyond its normal expiration date. Your license is valid for the full time you are absent from the state and if honorably discharged outside of California, for 30 days from your discharge date. Carry both your driver license and discharge papers during those 30 days.

You may ask the DMV for a card (DL 236) which extends your license. Your license is not valid if it has been suspended, canceled, or revoked.

Military dependents do not qualify for an extension.

Nonresident Military Person Stationed Here

If you are 18 years of age or older, see the rules for "California Residents" and "Visitors to California." Licensees eligible for

military extensions should carry documentation from their home state to verify their status to local law enforcement.

New Residents

When you make your home here or take a job, you must get a California driver license within **10 days**.

Evidence of residency is established by any of the following: voting in California elections; paying resident tuition at a public institution of higher education; filing for a home owner's property tax exemption; obtaining a license; or any other privilege or benefit not ordinarily extended to nonresidents.

Visitors To California

If you are a visitor in California over 18 years old and have a valid driver license from your home state or country (where you live permanently), you may drive in this state without getting a California driver license as long as your home state license remains valid.

Visitors Who Are Minors

If you are a visitor in California, between 16 and 18 years old, you may drive here with your home state license or instruction permit for only **10 days** after you arrive in California. After the 10 days you must have either a Nonresident Minor's Certificate or a California license. You may not work for pay, until you are 18 and have a California license.

A Nonresident Minor's Certificate lets you drive in California with a valid home state license. The certificate is issued by DMV to a minor who has given proof of financial responsibility. Proof is usually a motor vehicle accident insurance certificate from a California insurance company.

BASIC DRIVER LICENSE INFORMATION

Age Requirements

No matter what your age, you must bring an acceptable birth date/legal presence document and provide your true full name the first time you apply for a license. (See page 1.)

Adults: If you are 18 years old, meet the requirements, and pass the tests, you may be issued a California driver license. There is no upper age limit.

Minors: A minor is someone under 18 years of age. Minors must have their application for a license or any change of license class signed by their parents.*

Minors Employed As Drivers

A person under 18 may not be employed to drive a motor vehicle. Minors may not drive a school bus containing pupils. A person must be at least 21 to drive commercial vehicles in interstate commerce or to transport hazardous materials or wastes.

*Throughout this handbook, when referring to the licensing requirements for minors, the term "parents" means both custodial parents unless only one parent has custody; or all legal guardians unless only one legal guardian has custody.

Permitting An Unlicensed Person To Drive

It is against the law to loan your vehicle to an unlicensed or suspended person. If the person is caught driving, your vehicle may be impounded for **30 days**. (VC §14602.6) The impounding agency must give you a phone number to call for further information.

No person of any age may drive on a highway or in a public parking facility unless the person has a valid license or permit.

The law also says that you must not employ, permit, or authorize any person to drive a vehicle on a public street or highway unless the person is licensed to drive that class of vehicle.

LICENSE CLASSES

There are ten classes of California driver licenses. When you apply for a driver license, tell DMV the type of license you need. The license classes are defined as follows:

NOTE: Class M1 or M2 is added to *any other class license* after passing law and skill tests.

Class A*

You may drive any legal combination of vehicles, including vehicles under Classes B and C.

You may tow:

- any single vehicle with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of more than 10,000 lbs.

- any trailer bus, with endorsement
- more than one vehicle, with endorsement
- any vehicle under Classes B (an additional endorsement may be required) or C

Class A Fire Fighter*

You may drive only Class A and Class B defined combination fire fighting vehicles and all vehicles listed under Class C.

You may tow a single vehicle with a GVWR of more than 10,000 lbs.

Class A Noncommercial

You may drive any of the vehicles listed under Class C.

You may tow travel trailers weighing over 10,000 lbs. GVWR or 5th-wheel travel trailers weighing over 15,000 lbs. GVWR when the trailers are not used for hire (pay or other compensation). Study material for this class of license is contained in the *Recreational Vehicles and Trailers* booklet, available at any DMV office.

Class B*

You may drive:

- any single vehicle with a GVWR of more than 26,000 lbs.
- a 3-axle vehicle weighing over 6,000 lbs. gross.
- any bus (except a trailer bus), with endorsement.
- any farm labor vehicle, with endorsement.
- all vehicles under Class C.

You may tow a single vehicle with a GVWR of 10,000 lbs. or less.

*Refer to the *Commercial Driver Handbook* for additional information and study material.

Class B Fire Fighter*

You may drive only a Class B defined single fire fighting vehicle and all the vehicles listed under Class C.

You may tow a single vehicle with a GVWR of 10,000 lbs. or less.

Class B Noncommercial

You may drive:

- any vehicles listed under Class C.
- a housecar over 40 feet but not over 45 feet, with endorsement.

*You may tow any vehicle listed under Class C. Study material for this class of license is contained in the *Recreational Vehicles and Trailers* booklet, available at any DMV office.*

Class C

You may drive:

- any 2-axle vehicle with a GVWR of 26,000 lbs. or less.
- any 3-axle vehicle weighing 6,000 lbs. or less gross.
- any housecar, 40 feet or less.
- a vanpool vehicle, designed to carry more than 10 but less than 15 persons including the driver. The driver must have a valid medical report on file with DMV and carry a valid medical card. The driver must also have a signed certification stating he/she has not been convicted of reckless driving, drunk driving, or hit-and-run in the last five years. (VC §12804.9[j])

A farmer or employee of a farmer may drive:

- any combination of vehicles with a Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR) of 26,000 lbs. or less if used exclusively in agricultural operations **and** it is not for hire or compensation.

You may tow:

- a single vehicle with a GVWR of 10,000 lbs. or less including a tow dolly, if used.
- a boat trailer provided the GCWR does not exceed 26,000 lbs. when the towing is for recreational purposes or repair, is not used in commerce or contract carrier operations, or in business, is not for hire, and doesn't require an oversize permit (VC §35780).

With a vehicle weighing at least 4,000 lbs., you may tow a:

- trailer coach or 5th-wheel travel trailer under 10,000 lbs. GVWR when towing is not for compensation.
- 5th-wheel travel trailer exceeding 10,000 lbs. but under 15,000 lbs. GVWR, when towing is not for compensation **and** with endorsement.

NOTE:

- No passenger vehicle regardless of weight, may tow more than one vehicle.

- No motor vehicle under 4,000 lbs. unladen may tow any vehicle weighing 6,000 lbs. or more gross. (VC§21715)
- Class C licensees may **not** tow more than one vehicle.

Class C Commercial

You may drive any Class C vehicle carrying hazardous materials or wastes (Health & Safety Code §§ 25115 and 25117) which require placards. The hazardous materials (HAZMAT) endorsement must be on the license.

You may tow the same vehicles listed in Class C.

Class M1

You may operate any 2-wheel motorcycle or motor driven cycle. Refer to the *Motorcycle Driver Supplement* for more information.

Class M2

You may operate any motorized bicycle, or moped, or any bicycle with an attached motor. Refer to the *Motorcycle Driver Supplement* for more information.

NOTE: The DMV will not issue a license to operate a two-wheel motorized vehicle to anyone under 21 years of age unless that person has completed a CHP approved motorcycle rider training program certified on the Certificate of Completion of Motorcycle Training (DL 389). Fixed and mobile motorcycle training sites are located throughout California.

The telephone number for locating the nearest training site is 1-800-CCRIDER.

Ambulance Driver Certificate

If you wish to drive an ambulance used commercially in emergency service (VC §2512), apply at any DMV office. You may purchase an Ambulance Driver Handbook for \$5.

Verification of Training Document*

If you wish to drive a transit bus, you must have a Class A or B license with a passenger transport endorsement.

THE DRIVER LICENSE EXAMINATION PROCESS

Where Do You Take The Tests?

You may take the written, vision, and driving tests at any DMV office which provides driver license services. Written and vision tests are required when you apply for an original, renewal, or upgrade to a different class of license. Driving tests are usually waived for the class of license you currently have. Appointments are available for all DMV services. **An appointment is usually required to take any driving test.**

DMV Wants You To Pass

DMV wants you to pass your test. There are exams in many different languages. However, you must have the ability to read traffic signs in English. If the exam is not available

*Refer to the *Commercial Driver Handbook* for additional information and study material.

DRIVING IS A PRIVILEGE NOT A RIGHT

in the language you speak, you may take the exam with the help of an interpreter. The exams are also available in video, audio, and large print formats. If you have difficulty with an exam, tell the DMV employee. You can be more successful by following these suggestions:

- Read this handbook. Take a few days to review the information.
- Ask a family member or a friend to test your knowledge.
- Read the test questions carefully. Don't read anything extra into the question. There is only one correct answer.
- All test questions are based on this handbook. If you miss a question, the DMV employee can tell you where to find the correct answer.
- Review the sample test questions on page 86. Sample questions are also available on DMV's website: www.dmv.ca.gov.

What Will The Examination Process Include?

Your examination for a driver license includes the following:

- A vision test. If you need glasses or corrective contact lenses to pass this test, you must wear them. Your license will show that you must wear "corrective

lenses" while driving. If you do not pass the vision test, you will be referred to your vision specialist. A driving test may be required.

You will not get a license if your corrected vision is 20/200 or worse in the better eye. You may not use a bioptic telescopic or similar lens to meet this standard.

- A test of traffic laws, road signs, and driving safety rules (written or audio) to find out if you know how to legally drive your vehicle.
- A driving test, if required. This test is usually given by appointment only. For the driving test, bring with you:
 - your old license or instruction permit, if you have one.
 - a licensed driver.
 - a car that is safe to drive, currently and properly registered, and displays a front and rear license plate. Make sure your vehicle's brake lights, horn, parking brake, and electric signals are working properly and the vehicle does not have bald tires. The driver's side window must roll down. The windshield must allow a full, unobstructed field of vision and there must be two rear view mirrors (one must be on the left outside of the vehicle).
 - you will be asked to locate the switches for the vehicle's headlights, windshield wipers,

defroster, and emergency flashers. . . . You must demonstrate how to use the parking brake. You will be asked to show that your car is properly insured. If you use a rental car for the driving test, the driver's name must show on the contract as the insured. You must also wear your seat belt (see page 46).

- The driving test will be postponed if the vehicle does not meet the above requirements or if you refuse to use your seat belt during the driving test.

During The Driving Test

The driving test is to show that you can drive safely. Only you and the examiner (or other DMV personnel) can be in the vehicle. No animal may be in the vehicle. The examiner will give you directions and will not trick you or ask you to do anything illegal. The driving test will only be given after all the requirements have been met. (See page 9 or 12.)

You will be asked to show the arm signals (see page 32). However, during the test, you must use the vehicle's turn signal lights.

During the driving test, the examiner will note:

- How you start your vehicle. When leaving the curb, do you use your mirrors and turn your head and look back for passing cars? Do you signal, and wait

until it is safe before entering traffic?

- How you control your vehicle. Do you use the gas pedal, brake, steering wheel (two hands on opposite sides), and other controls correctly?
- How you drive in traffic. Do you use the proper lane? Do you signal, turn your head and look back before pulling away from the curb or when you change lanes? Do you signal the proper distance before turning? Do you follow other vehicles at a safe distance?
- How you obey the traffic signals and posted signs (such as speed limit signs).
- How you drive through blind or crowded intersections. Do you scan carefully for signs, signals, pedestrians, and other vehicles? Do you yield and take the right-of-way correctly?
- How you steer your vehicle. Do you turn from the proper lane into the proper lane. Is your turn too wide or too sharp?
- How you stop. Do you stop smoothly and at the right spot? Can you stop quickly and safely in an emergency? In a vehicle with a manual transmission, do you keep the vehicle in gear or push the clutch in and coast to a stop?
- How you back up. Do you look over your right shoulder while backing? Can you back in a

straight line? Do you have complete control of the vehicle?

- How you change your speed to suit the number and speed of nearby traffic, the people crossing the street, road conditions, weather, the amount of light, and the distance you can see ahead.
- How you judge distance. Do you stay a safe distance away from other vehicles when following or passing? Do you stay a safe distance away from people walking or bicyclists riding on the road?
- How you respect the rights of others. Are you courteous to other drivers and pedestrians?
- Whether you pay full attention to the job of driving.
- At the end of the test, you will get your score sheet and the examiner will discuss the results with you. If you pass the driving test, you will be issued an interim license valid for 60 days.

MINOR'S PROVISIONAL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

To get a permit, you must:

- Be at least 15, but under 18 years of age.
- Submit a completed DMV application form (DL 44). Signing this form means you agree to submit to a chemical test to determine the alcohol or drug content of your blood when required by a peace officer. If

you refuse to sign this statement, you will not get a permit or license.

- Provide your true full name.
- Have your parents' or guardians' signatures on the application form.
- Present an acceptable birth date/legal presence document. (See page 1.)
- If you are under 15½, be enrolled in driver education and driver training during the same semester (simultaneous enrollment) and bring the DMV form DL 391 or OL 239. If you are between 15½ and 17½, you must be simultaneously enrolled or have completed driver education and bring the DMV form DL 387 or OL 237. Your driving instructor will give you the form to bring to DMV.
- If you want a permit to drive mopeds or motorcycles, you must be at least 15½ and bring proof you have finished driver education and driver training (DL 387, DL 388, DL 388A, OL 237, or OL 238).
- If you are at least 17½, you may obtain a permit without driver education or driver training. However, you must bring in the forms to show you have completed driver education and driver training (DL 387, DL 388, DL 388A, OL 237, or OL 238) or wait until you are 18 to get a license.

- Provide your social security number. It will be verified with the Social Security Administration.
- Pay the required \$12 application fee. This fee is good for 12 months and allows you to take all appropriate test(s) three times, if needed, during that period. This fee pays for both the instruction permit and driver license, if you qualify for both within the 12-month period. The fee must be paid when you apply for any new or change of class permit or license. **The fee will not be returned.** If the application expires, you must start again. This means resubmitting documents, paying the application fee, and taking the required tests.
- Pass an eye exam. By law, any person with a best corrected vision of 20/200 or worse in the better eye cannot be issued a driver license. You may not use a bioptic telescopic or similar lens to meet this vision standard.
- Have your picture taken.
- Give a thumb print.
- Pass a traffic laws and road signs test.
 - If you fail the test, you must wait **one week** before taking it again. This will give you time to study.

The provisional permit is not valid until you start your behind-the-wheel driver training with a licensed instructor or reach age 17½. Be sure to pick up the *Parent/*

Teen Training Guide (DL 603) to assist you in practicing your driver skills.

Provisional Permit Restrictions

You must practice with a parent, guardian, spouse, or an adult 25 years of age or older, who has a valid California driver license. The person must be close enough to take control of the vehicle at any time. A provisional permit does not let you drive alone—not even to a DMV office to take a driving test.

If you have a permit that allows you to drive an M1 or M2 vehicle, you cannot carry passengers and you must ride during daylight hours only and not on the freeway.

Where Can I Take Driver Education or Driver Training?

You may take driver education (classroom training) or driver training (behind-the-wheel) in a public or private high school, or in a state licensed, professional driving school. (See page 83.)

A high school instructor may issue you a student license if you are over 15 years old and have the written consent of your parents. A student license lets you drive only during school or professional driver training.

Licensed professional driving schools issue a restricted license to a person between 15 and up to 18 years of age. A driving school restricted license only lets the person drive during school or professional driver training.

Can I Drive With the Permit Outside of California?

Contact the driver licensing office in the state or country you plan to visit before you drive if you only have a California provisional permit.

MINORS' PROVISIONAL LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

You must:

- Be at least 16 years old.
- Prove that you have finished both driver education and driver training (DMV form DL 387, DL 388, DL 388A, OL 237, or OL 238).
- Have had an instruction permit for at least six months.
- Provide a parent's signature on your instruction permit stating you have completed all the driving practice outlined in the *Parent-Teen Training Guide*. (Certain other persons may sign.) This booklet is available at your local DMV field office.
- Complete 50 hours of supervised driving practice (10 hours must be night driving). Your parents must certify to this training.
- Pass the behind-the-wheel driving test. If you fail the test, you must wait **two weeks** before you are tested again. You have up to three chances to pass the driving test while your permit is valid.

Starting July 1, 2003, if you fail the driving test, you must pay a \$5 retest fee.

You may drive alone with your provisional license, as long as you do not have accidents or traffic violations. The following restrictions apply after you are licensed:

- During the first six months, you must be accompanied by your parent or guardian, a licensed driver 25 years of age or older, or a licensed or certified driving instructor if you drive between the hours of midnight and 5:00 AM or if you transport people under 20 years of age.
- During the second six months, you must be accompanied by a driver 25 years of age or older if you drive between the hours of midnight and 5:00 AM. However, you may transport passengers under age 20 without supervision between the hours of 5:00 AM and midnight.

Provisional License Restriction Exceptions

These exceptions are granted when reasonable transportation is **not** available and it is necessary for you to drive. **A note is required explaining the necessity and the date the driving necessity will end.**

- Medical necessity. The note must be signed by your physician.
- School or school-authorized activity. The note must be signed by your school principal, dean, or his or her designee.
- Employment necessity. The note must be signed by your employer and verify employment.

- Immediate need of family member. The note must be signed by your parent or legal guardian.
- Emancipated minor. No documentation is needed. However, you must have already declared yourself emancipated and provided DMV with Proof of Financial Responsibility (SR 1P) in lieu of your guarantors' signatures.

To find out what happens if you don't obey the law, see page 76.

When you become 18 years old, the "provisional" part of your license ends. You may keep the photo license you have which expires on the fourth birthday after you applied for it or pay \$12 for a duplicate license without the word "provisional."

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR ADULTS

Driver education and driver training, if you are interested, can be obtained from a public or private high school adult education class or from a state licensed, professional driving school. (See page 83.)

If you want to use public roads while learning to drive, you must get an instruction permit. You may use the permit to practice driving with an accompanying adult who is 25 years of age or older, with a valid California license. The person must be with you in the vehicle, close enough to take control of it at any time. An instruction permit

doesn't permit you to drive alone—not even to a DMV office to take the driving examination.

If you have a permit that allows you to drive an M1 or M2 vehicle, you cannot carry passengers and you must ride during daylight hours only and not on the freeway.

To get a permit, you must:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Fill out the DMV application form (DL 44). Signing this form means you agree to submit to a chemical test to determine the alcohol or drug content of your blood when required by a peace officer. If you refuse to sign this statement, DMV will not issue a permit or license.
- Provide your true full name.
- Present an acceptable birth date/legal presence document. (See page 1.)
- Provide your social security number. It will be verified by the Social Security Administration.
- Pay the required \$12 application fee. This fee is good for 12 months and allows you to take all appropriate test(s) three times, if needed, during that period. This fee pays for both the instruction permit and driver license, if you qualify for both within the 12-month period. The fee must be paid when you apply for any new or change of class permit or license. **The fee will not be returned.** If the

application expires, you must start again. This means resubmitting documents, paying the application fee, and taking the required tests.

- Pass an eye exam. By law, any person with a best corrected vision of 20/200 or worse in the better eye cannot be issued a driver license. You may not use a bioptic telescopic or similar lens to meet this vision standard.
- Have your picture taken.
- Give a thumb print.
- Pass a traffic laws and road signs test.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADULTS

If you have never had any driver license, you must:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Complete all the steps required for a permit.
- Pass a behind-the-wheel driving test. If you fail the test, you must wait until the next day or the next available appointment before you are tested again. Bring your instruction permit with you.

Starting July 1, 2003, you must pay a \$5 retest fee if you fail the driving test.

If you have an out-of-state, or out-of-country license, or you are renewing a California driver license, you must:

- Be at least 18 years of age.

- Complete all the steps required for a permit. (A temporary license will not be issued if you fail the eye exam.)
- Surrender your valid out-of-state driver license. **NOTE:** Driving tests for license renewals or holders of out-of-state or U.S. territory licenses are normally waived. However, the department may require a driving test for any type of application. Driving tests are required for out-of-country license holders.

Starting July 1, 2003, a \$5 retest fee is required if you fail the driving test.

OTHER LICENSING INFORMATION

License May Be Refused

The department will take the strongest action possible against anyone who alters or otherwise attempts to falsify a driver license. DMV may also refuse to issue you a license if you:

- Have a history of alcohol or drug abuse.
- Have used the license illegally.
- Have lied on your application.
- Do not understand traffic laws or signs.
- Do not have the skill to drive.
- Have a health problem that makes your driving unsafe.
- Have an outstanding traffic citation because you failed to appear (FTA) or failed to pay (FTP).

- Have not complied with a judgment or order for family support payments.
- Use a crib sheet for any license examination.
- Impersonate an applicant or allow someone else to impersonate you to fraudulently qualify for a license.
- Refuse to give a thumb print.
- Refuse to sign the certification on the application (DMV form DL 44).
- Submit a fraudulent birth date/legal presence document or social security document. See Actions Resulting in Loss of License on page 66 for further information.

Driver License With Restrictions

The department may place special conditions or restrictions on your license. (See the Health & Safety section.) A driving test is normally required to remove a special condition or restriction from your license.

The department may suspend or revoke your license if you violate a condition or restriction.

To Replace a Lost Or Damaged License

If your driver license is lost or damaged, you must go to a DMV office and pay the \$12 fee for a duplicate. You must also present acceptable photo identification. If DMV cannot confirm your identity,

you will **not** be issued a temporary license. If you are a **minor**, your parents must sign the DMV application form (DL 44).

Once a duplicate license has been issued, the previous license is no longer valid. Destroy it if you find it later.

To Change Your Address

When you move, the law requires you to give your new address to DMV within **10 days**. Each driver must complete and sign a Notice of Change of Address (DMV 14) form. It is available on the Internet (www.dmv.ca.gov). This form also allows you to change your address for your vehicle registration. Mail the completed and signed DMV 14 to: DMV, P.O. Box 942890, Sacramento, CA 94290-0001.

Type or write your new address in ink on a small piece of paper. Sign and date it. Carry this piece of paper with your DL/ID card. You will not receive a new DL/ID card. Do not tape or staple the change of address paper to your DL or ID card. If you go to a DMV office, ask for a Change of Address Certificate card (DL 43) to complete. Carry this card with you. There is no charge to change your address this way.

To Change Your Name

If you change your name you will need a new driver license. Take your old license in person to a DMV office. A new picture and thumb print will be taken. Your

old photo license will be invalidated and returned. No additional examination will be given, but the required fee will be charged.

The California Code of Regulations requires you to provide DMV with acceptable verification of your "true full name" using the same documents that establish legal presence in the U.S. (See page 1.) The following documents are also acceptable to verify your true full name:

- Adoption documents—containing your legal name as a result of the adoption.
- Name change documents—containing your legal name both before and after the name change.
- Marriage Certificate.
- Dissolution of marriage documents—containing your legal name as a result of the court action.

If you also have an ID card, change your name on the ID card at the same time. You cannot have identification in two different names. See page 82 for information about changing your name on an ID card.

When Will Your License Expire?

DMV issues a regular driver license for either a four- or five-year term. However, some drivers may not receive a five-year license until their next renewal period. Each license expires on the date shown

on the license. It is against the law to drive after the license has expired.

You will be sent a renewal notice about two months before your license expires (**if DMV has your correct address**). The renewal fee for a regular Class C and/or M1/M2 license is \$15. Bring the notice and your photo license with you when you renew. If you do not receive a renewal notice, bring in your current driver license before it expires.

If DMV cannot confirm your identity, you will **not** be issued a temporary license.

You may be eligible to renew your license by mail without taking a test if you have a good driving record. (See page 84.)

If you are renewing a Class A, B, or other commercial license with a special certificate, be sure to get the *Commercial Driver Handbook*. If you are licensed to operate a Class M1 or M2 vehicle, see the *Motorcycle Driver Supplement*.

A driving test may be required as part of any driver license examination. Driving tests are not required simply because of age.

Starting July 1, 2003, a \$5 retest fee is required if you fail the driving test.

Drivers with physical or other medical conditions may have to be reexamined from time to time by a physician or be retested more often than every four or five years

(limited term license status) by a DMV examiner. (Also see Health & Safety section.)

One Year Extension

If you are away from California (up to one year) when your driver license expires, you may request by mail a one-year license extension before it expires. There is no fee for this extension. Individuals who have been issued a "limited term" license are not eligible. Mail your request to the Department of Motor Vehicles, P.O. Box 942890, Sacramento, CA 94290-0001. Include your name as it appears on the license, driver license number, birth date, California residence address, and your out-of-state address.

Always Carry Your License

You must have your driver license with you when you drive. Show it to any police officer who asks to see it. You must also show it to the other driver(s) involved if you are in an accident. (See page 66.)

LAWS AND RULES OF THE ROAD

To drive safely, you must follow the many rules and laws which tell you where and when you can drive. To follow these rules you must:

- Know what traffic lights and signs mean.
- Understand "right-of-way" laws and how to use traffic lanes.
- Know where and when you can park.

TRAFFIC CONTROL AT INTERSECTIONS

Traffic lights, signs, and "right-of-way" rules tell you when to go or stop at an intersection.

The traffic light colors are:

Red—A red signal light means "**STOP.**" You can make a right turn against a red light after you stop and yield to pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles that are close enough to be a hazard. Do not make the right turn until you can turn safely. DO NOT turn if there is a sign posted for "NO TURN ON RED."



Red Arrow—A red arrow means "**STOP**" until the green signal or green arrow appears. A turn may not be made against a red arrow.



Flashing Red—A flashing red signal light means STOP. After



stopping, proceed when safe. Observe the right-of-way rules.

Yellow—A yellow signal light means “CAUTION.” The red signal is about to appear. When you see the yellow light, you should stop if you can do so safely. If you can’t stop, watch for vehicles that may enter the intersection when the light changes.



Flashing Yellow—A flashing yellow signal light warns you to be careful. Slow down and be especially alert.



Yellow Arrow—A yellow arrow means the “protected” turning time period is ending. Be prepared to obey the next signal which could be the green or red light or the red arrow.



Green—A green light means “GO,” but first let any vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians remaining in the intersection get through before you move ahead. If you are turning left, make the turn only if you have enough space to complete the turn before any oncoming vehicle, bicyclist, or pedestrian becomes a hazard.



Do not enter an intersection, even when the light is green, unless you can get completely across before the light turns red. If you block the intersection, you can be cited.

Green Arrow—A green arrow means “GO.” Turn in the direction the arrow is pointing. But first yield to any vehicle, bicyclist, or pedestrian still in the intersection. The green arrow pointing right or left allows you to make a “protected” turn. This means oncoming vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians are stopped by a red light as long as the green arrow is lighted.



Traffic Signal Blackout—If a traffic signal light is not working because of an electrical power failure, stop at the intersection and proceed as if the intersection is controlled by a stop sign in all directions.

PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS

Pedestrian signals show the words:

- “WALK” or a lighted picture of a “WALKING PERSON” in white when it is legal to cross a street.
- “DON’T WALK” or a lighted picture of a “RAISED HAND” in orange when you may not start across the street.



A flashing “DON’T WALK” or “RAISED HAND” signal means do not start across the street because you may not have enough time to make it across before traffic starts

moving across your path. If the flashing starts after you have, already started to cross, finish crossing the street.

At many traffic signals, you need to push the pedestrian push button (once) to activate the "WALK" or "WALKING PERSON" signal. If there are no pedestrian signals, pedestrians must obey the red, yellow, or green signal lights.

SIGNS

Traffic Signs.

The shape of a sign gives you a clue about the information contained on the sign. Here are the common shapes used:

*The eight-sided red **STOP** sign* means that you must make a full stop before entering a crosswalk or at a white "limit line." A limit line is a wide white line painted on the street. When a crosswalk or limit line is not marked, stop at the corner.



On divided highways, a **STOP** sign for crossing or turning vehicles is often placed on the island or dividing strip. You must also stop there.

*The three-sided red **YIELD** sign* means slow down, be ready to stop, and let traffic (including people walking or riding bikes) pass before you proceed.



The square red and white regulatory signs tell you about

regulations you must follow. For example, the **DO NOT ENTER** sign tells you vehicles will be coming toward you, usually on a freeway off ramp. The **WRONG WAY** sign may be posted with the **DO NOT ENTER** sign. If you see one or both of these signs, drive to the side of the road and stop. You are going **against** traffic. When safe, back out or turn around and go back to the road you were on. (At night, road reflectors will shine red in your headlights when you are going the wrong way.)



A red circle with a red line through it always means NO. The picture inside the circle shows what you cannot do. The sign may be shown with or without words under it.



A circular sign tells you of an approaching railroad crossing. See pages 22 and 58 for more information.



A five-sided sign tell you a school is nearby. See page 21 for more information.



A four-sided, diamond shaped sign warns drivers of specific road conditions and dangers ahead. Most, but not all, warning signs are diamond shaped. All warning signs must be obeyed.

A white rectangular sign tells you about important rules you must obey.

Examples of Red and White Regulatory Signs



No U-turn



No Left Turn



No Right Turn

Examples of Guide Signs



Examples of Warning Signs



Slippery When Wet



Merging Traffic



Divided Highway



Curve



Two Way Traffic



Lane Ends



End Divided Highway



Traffic Signal Ahead



Pedestrian Crossing



Crossroad



Curve

Examples of White Regulatory Signs



Examples of Highway Construction and Maintenance Signs



RIGHT-OF-WAY LAWS

Right-of-way rules help people drive safely. These rules go along with courtesy and common sense. Bicyclists, moped riders, and pedestrians must follow these rules, too.

Never insist on taking the right-of-way. If another driver does not yield to you when he or she should, forget it. Let the other driver go first. You will help prevent

accidents and make driving more pleasant.

However, if another driver expects you to take your legal turn, take it. If you don't, you may cause confusion and delay traffic.

Pedestrians

Pedestrian safety is a serious issue. One in six traffic fatalities is a pedestrian. Drive cautiously when pedestrians are near because they may cross your path.

A pedestrian is a person on foot or who uses a conveyance such as roller skates, skateboards, etc., other than a bicycle.

A pedestrian can also be a person with a disability in a self-propelled wheelchair, tricycle, or quadricycle.

- Always stop for any pedestrian crossing at corners or other crosswalks (see page 34). Do not pass a car from behind that has stopped at a crosswalk. A pedestrian you can't see may be crossing.
- Do not drive on a sidewalk, except to cross it at a driveway or alley. When crossing, yield to any pedestrian.
- Remember—if a pedestrian makes eye contact with you, he or she is ready to cross the street. Yield to the pedestrian.
- Pedestrians have the right-of-way at corners, whether or not the crosswalks are marked by painted white lines.

Information regarding pedestrians who are blind is on page 57.

Other Vehicles

- At an intersection without STOP or YIELD signs, slow down and be ready to stop. Yield to vehicles already in the intersection or just entering it. Also, yield to the car which arrives first *or* to the car on your right if it reaches the intersection at the same time as you do. At a "T" intersection, without STOP or YIELD signs, vehicles on the through road have the right-of-way.
- When there are STOP signs at all corners, stop first; then follow the above rules.
- When you turn left, give the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching you that are close enough to be dangerous. Look for motorcyclists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. On divided highways, or highways with several lanes, watch out for vehicles coming in any lane you must cross. Turn left only when you can see that it is safe.

Whenever you park off the road or leave a parking lot etc., before you enter the road again, yield to traffic.

SPEED LIMITS

California's "Basic Speed Law" states never drive faster than is safe for current conditions, regardless of the posted speed limit.

For more information, see page 62.

Maximum Speed Limit*

The maximum speed limit on most California highways is 65 mph. However, for two-lane undivided highways and for vehicles towing trailers, the maximum speed limit is 55 mph, unless posted for a higher speed. On some highways the maximum speed limit is 70 mph, but only if there are signs posted showing 70 mph.

Other speed limit signs are posted for the type of roads and traffic in each area. All speed limits are based on ideal driving conditions. Construction zones usually have reduced speed zones.

Driving faster than the posted speed limit, or than it is safe for current conditions, on any road is dangerous and **illegal**. High speed increases your stopping distance. The faster you go, the less time you have to avoid a hazard or accident. The force of a 60 mph crash isn't just twice as great as at 30 mph, it's **four times as great!**

When You Must Drive Slowly

There are times when you must drive slowly because of heavy traffic or bad weather. However, if you block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic by driving too slowly, you may receive a ticket. When you drive slower than other traffic, do not drive in the "fast" lane. Move to the right when another driver is close behind you and wishes to drive faster.

*Remember, you may not drive faster than the posted or maximum speed limit, even if you think it is safe to do so.

When you drive a bus, tow a vehicle or trailer, or drive a truck with three or more axles, you will be traveling slower than other vehicles. You must drive in the right-hand lane or in a lane specially marked for you. If no lanes are marked and there are four lanes in your direction, you may only drive in either of the two lanes closest to the right side of the road.

Special Speed Limits

Around children:

- Always drive more carefully near schools, playgrounds, parks, and residential areas because children may suddenly dart into the street. Within 500 feet of a school, the speed limit is 25 mph while children are outside or crossing the street. No matter what the speed limit sign states, you should **never** drive faster than 25 mph when the school ground has no fence and children are outside.
- Sometimes lower speed limit signs are placed near schools, so look for them.
- Watch for bicyclists and pedestrians near schools.
- Look for school safety patrols or school crossing guards and obey their directions. For the crossing guard's safety, allow him or her to get safely to the side of the road before driving ahead.
- Look for stopped school buses and children crossing the street. Some school buses flash *yellow*

lights when the bus is preparing to stop and let children leave the bus. This is a warning for you to prepare to stop. Flashing red lights mean you must stop from either direction until the children are safely across the street and the lights have stopped flashing. (Also see page 53)

Blind intersections and alleys:

- Blind intersections are intersections where you cannot see for 100 feet in either direction during the last 100 feet before crossing.
- Trees, bushes, buildings, or parked cars at intersections can block your view of vehicles coming from the side. Slow to 15 mph for a blind intersection. However, you may drive as fast as the posted speed limit if YIELD or STOP signs on the side streets give you the right-of-way.
- The speed limit in an alley is 15 mph.

Near railroad tracks:

- The speed limit is 15 mph when you come within 100 feet of a railroad crossing and you cannot see the tracks for 400 feet in both directions. You may go faster than 15 mph if the crossing is controlled by gates, a warning signal, or a flagman. (Also see page 58)

Passing a streetcar, trolley, or bus:

- At a safety zone or at an intersection where a streetcar,

trolley, or bus is stopped and traffic is controlled by a police officer or traffic signal, the passing speed limit, if it safe to pass, is no more than 10 mph.

In special traffic lanes:

- Sometimes different speed limits may be posted for different lanes of traffic.

In business or residence districts:

- The speed limit is 25 mph unless signs show other limits.

Animals on or around the road:

- If you see animals or livestock, slow down. Obey the person in charge of the animals. If you see a stray animal in your path, slow down or stop, if it is safe to do so.

Turnout Areas

Special "turnout" areas are sometimes marked on two-lane roads. You should pull to the side in these areas and allow cars behind you to pass. Other two-lane roads sometimes have "passing lanes." If you are driving slowly on a two-lane highway or road where passing is unsafe, and five or more vehicles are following you, pull to the side of the road wherever you can safely do so to let the vehicles pass.



USE OF LANES

Yellow lines mark the center of a road used for two-way traffic. You may pass on a two-way road if the yellow center line is broken. When

Lanes For Through Traffic

DO NOT PASS DO NOT PASS MAY PASS



- (1) *Solid yellow line: No passing when solid yellow line is on your side.*
- (2) *Double solid lines: No vehicle may pass.*
- (3) *Broken yellow line: May pass if movement can be made in safely.*

a solid and a broken yellow line are together, you must not pass if you are driving next to the solid line.

Two solid yellow lines mean “no passing.” **Never drive to the left of these lines unless:**

- You are turning left at an intersection or into or out of a private road or driveway.
- The right half of the road is closed or blocked.
- You are in carpool lanes with designated entrances on the left.

White lines painted on the pavement indicate traffic going in your direction (such as one-way streets).

Broken white lines separate traffic lanes on roads with two or more lanes going in your direction. Drive in the lane with the smoothest flow of traffic.

If you can choose among three lanes on your side of the road, pick the middle lane for the smoothest driving. If you want to go faster, pass, or turn left, use the left lane. When you drive slowly, enter, or turn off the road, use the right lane.

If only two lanes go in your direction, pick the right lane for the smoothest driving.

Don't Weave—stay in one traffic lane as much as possible. Before changing lanes, check your mirrors and turn your head to **CHECK BESIDE YOUR VEHICLE** for vehicles and motorcycles in your blind spot. Also, be sure there is enough room for your vehicle in the next lane.

Once you start through an intersection, keep going. If you start to make a turn, follow through. Last second changes may cause accidents. If you missed a turn, continue to the next intersection and work your way back to where you want to go.

Lanes For Turning

Below are some rules to help you when turning at a street corner.

Left Turn: Get close to the center divider line or into the left turn lane (if there is one). When turning left, don't turn too soon and “cut the corner” of the lane belonging to cars coming toward you.

Right Turn: If you are turning right, get close to the right edge of the road (watch for bicycles or motorcycles between your car and

the curb). On a right turn, don't turn wide. Stay in the right lane until you finish your turn.

Bicycle Lanes

A bicycle lane is shown by a solid white line along either side of the street, four or more feet from the curb. This line will usually be a broken line near the corner. The words "BIKE LANE" are painted at various locations in this lane.

Don't drive in a bike lane unless you are within 200 feet of making

How to make a left turn on a two way street



- (1) *About 100 feet from corner:*
 - Begin signalling.
 - Reduce speed.
- (2) *STOP BEHIND LIMIT LINE.*
 - Look left, then right, then left again.
 - If safe, make turn.

How to make a right turn



- (1) *Begin signalling.*
 - Look over right shoulder.
 - Move as close to the right curb as possible—OK to enter bicycle lane if it is safe.
- (2) *About 100 feet from corner, reduce speed.*
- (3) *STOP BEHIND LIMIT LINE*
Look both ways.
- (4) *Turn into right lane.*

a right turn at a corner or you are preparing to enter or leave the roadway. Then drive your vehicle into the bike lane no more than 20 feet from the corner or the entrance. Do not drive into the bike lane to pass traffic ahead of you preparing to turn. Watch for bikes before entering the bike lane.

You may park in the bike lane unless signs say "NO PARKING."

Pedestrians are not allowed in bike lanes when there are sidewalks. Drivers of motorized bicycles should use bike lanes carefully to avoid accidents with bicycle riders.

Safety Zones

A space set aside for pedestrians and marked by raised buttons or markers on the road is a "safety zone." You will most often see safety zones in areas where there are street cars or trolleys using the same streets as vehicle traffic, such as in San Francisco. (See page 53.)

Lanes For Passing

Never drive off the paved or main-travelled portion of the road or on the shoulder to pass. The edge of the main-travelled portion of the road has a painted white line on the road surface.

When you want to pass a vehicle or bicycle going in your direction, **pass on the left.** In a narrow traffic lane, wait until the traffic is clear in the opposite lane before passing a bicyclist. Then change lanes. Do not squeeze past the bicyclist.

You may pass on the right only:

- If an open highway is clearly marked for two or more lanes of vehicles moving in your direction of travel.
- If the driver ahead of you is making a left turn and you do not have to drive off the roadway. Never pass on the left if the driver is signaling a left turn. (Be careful. Sometimes drivers use the wrong turn signal.)


If you need to change lanes and also make a turn, complete the turn first and then change lanes when traffic is clear.

Carpool Lanes And Controlled Onramps

Carpooling and bus riding are useful ways to save fuel and reduce the number of vehicles using highways in heavy commute traffic.

Some freeways have special lanes and onramps for buses only, or buses and carpools, or carpools only. You may use a **CARPOOL** lane if your vehicle carries a minimum of 2 or 3 people, including the driver, or you drive a low-emission vehicle that displays a special decal issued by DMV (the passenger restriction does not apply). Unless otherwise

posted, motorcycle riders may use designated carpool lanes.

Signs at the onramp or along the freeway tell you the size of the carpool (number of people) needed to use that lane and the days and hours that the requirement applies. The pavement of these lanes is marked with the diamond symbol  and the words "CARPOOL LANE." **Do not** cross over the double parallel solid lines to enter or exit any carpool lane except at designated entry or exit places.

Vehicles towing trailers are typically not allowed to use a carpool lane because they are restricted to the right-hand lane.

Special Lanes

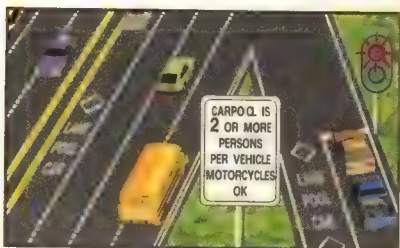
In high density traffic areas, you may sometimes see an entire street, or a few traffic lanes on a street, marked with cones. The cones indicate that a lane or street is being used differently. For instance, to help relieve congestion at a sports or cultural event, entire streets or a few lanes will be used for traffic going in the opposite direction from what is "normal" until the traffic congestion is cleared.

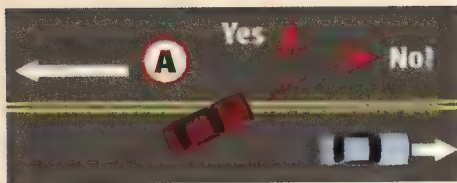
ROAD MARKINGS

The * refers to the examples on page 26.

A* You may cross a solid **double yellow line** to turn left

B* Two sets of solid **double yellow lines** which are spaced two or more feet apart sometimes appear as a road marking. Such





*Yes, OK to cross double yellow to turn left.
No, do not cross double yellow to pass another vehicle.*

lines stand for a solid wall. Don't drive on or over such a road marking. You may not make a left turn or a U-turn across it. Cross only at plainly marked openings.

C and D* A center left turn lane is in the middle of a two-way street. The lane is marked on both sides by two painted lines—inner line broken, outer line solid. You must use this lane to begin left turns or to start a permitted U-turn



When turning left from a side street or driveway, signal and wait until it is safe. Then drive into the center left turn lane. Enter traffic only when it is safe.

You may drive across a center left turn lane.



E* Move into the broken-line bike lane no more than 200 feet before turning right. Watch for bicycles and foot traffic.

TURNES

Center Left Turn Lane

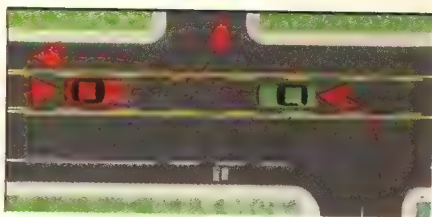
If a street has a center left turn lane, you must use it when you turn left (VC §21460.5[c]). You may only drive for 200 feet in the center left

turn lane. This lane is not a regular traffic lane or a passing lane.

To turn left, signal and drive completely inside the center left turn lane. Don't stop part way into the lane, with the back of your vehicle blocking traffic. Make sure the lane is clear in both directions and then turn only when it is safe. Look for vehicles coming toward you in the same lane as they start to make their left turns.

Right Turn Against A Red Light. Signal and stop for a red traffic light at the limit line, if there is one, or before entering the intersection. If there is no sign which prohibits a right turn on the red light, you may turn right. Be careful that you do not interfere with pedestrians, bicyclists, or vehicles moving on their green light.

Left Turn Against Red Light On A One-Way Street Only. Signal and stop for a red traffic light at the limit line, if there is one, or before



entering the intersection. On a one-way street, you may turn left into a one-way street where traffic moves left if there is no sign which prohibits the left turn. If the light is red, be very careful that you do not interfere with pedestrians, bicyclists, or vehicles moving on their green light.

No Turn Against A Red Arrow.

A right or left turn may not be made against a red arrow.

Examples Of Right And Left Turns

The numbers on the cars refer to the numbered sentences on these pages. Signal in each situation.

1. *Left turn from a two-way street.* Start the turn in the left lane closest to the middle of the street. You may complete the turn in either lane of the cross street (as shown by arrows) if it is safe to do so. You must use a left turn lane if there is one. A left turn from the next lane may be made if signs or arrows show it is okay.
2. *Right turn.* The vehicle is turning correctly. Do not swing wide into another lane of traffic. Begin the turn in the lane nearest the right-hand curb and

end in the lane nearest the right-hand curb. You may start a right turn from other than the far right lane only where pavement or overhead markings show that using that lane for a right turn is permitted.



3. *Left turn from a two-way street into a one-way street.* Start the turn from the far left lane on your side of the road. You may turn into any lane that is safely open, as shown by the arrows.





4. *Left turn from a one-way street into a two-way street.* Start the turn from the far left lane. The vehicle may turn into either of the lanes that is safely open, as shown.
5. *Left turn from a one-way street into a one-way street.* Start the turn from the far left lane. Watch for bicyclists between your vehicle and the curb because they can legally use the left turn lane for their left turns.
6. *Right turn from a one-way street into a one-way street.* Start the turn in the far right lane. You may use any lane, if safe to do so. Sometimes signs or pavement markings will let you turn right from a lane next to the far right lane (shown by *).
7. *Turn at a "T" intersection from a one-way into a two-way street.* Through traffic has the right-of-way. You may turn either right or left from the center lane. Watch for vehicles and bicycles inside your turn.

Legal U-Turns

When you make a U-turn, you turn around and go back the way you came. Signal and then make the U-turn only from the far left lane on your side of the road. If the street has a center left turn lane, begin your U-turn in that lane.

You may make a U-turn:

- Across a double yellow line, if the turn can be made safely and legally.
- In a residential district:
 - if no vehicle approaching you is closer than 200 feet.
 - whenever a traffic sign or signal protects you from vehicles which are close.
- At an intersection on a green light or green arrow unless a "No U-turn" sign is posted.
- On a divided highway. Don't drive over or across any dividing section, curb, or strip. This includes:
 - two sets of double lines marking a center divider unless an opening is provided for turns.
 - the unpaved median in the middle of the freeway.

Illegal U-Turns

Never make a U-turn on a highway by crossing a curb, or strip of land, or two sets of double lines.

You may not make a U-turn:

- Where you cannot clearly see 200 feet in each direction

because of a curve, hill, rain, fog, or other reason.

- Where a "NO U-TURN" sign is posted.
- When vehicles may hit you.
- On a one-way street.
- In front of a fire station. Never use a fire station driveway to turn around.
- In a business district*, except at intersections or through openings in a concrete divider.

END-OF-LANE MARKINGS

Freeway lanes (as well as some city street lanes) which are ending will usually be marked by large broken lines painted on the pavement. If you are driving in a lane marked with these broken lines, be prepared for the lane to end or to exit the freeway. Look for a sign to tell you what to do (i.e., merge right, right lane must exit, etc.).



* Churches, apartments, multiple dwelling houses, clubs, and public buildings, other than schools, are considered to be in a business district.

PARKING

Parking On A Hill

When you park headed downhill, turn your front wheels into the curb or toward the side of the road.

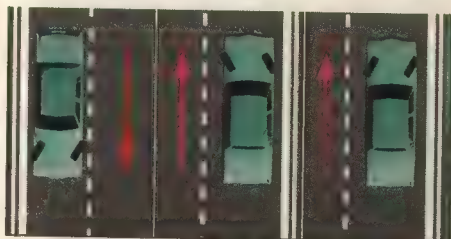
Set the parking brake.

When you park headed uphill, turn your front wheels away from the curb and let your vehicle roll back a few inches until the rear of one front wheel gently touches the curb. Then ***set the parking brake.***

For either uphill or downhill parking, if there is no curb, turn the wheels toward the side of the road so the car will roll away from the center of the road if the brakes fail.

When you park on a sloping driveway, turn the wheels so that the car will not roll into the street if the brakes fail.

Always set your parking brake.
Leave the vehicle in gear. Use the "parking" position if your vehicle has an automatic transmission.



DOWN HILL

UP HILL

NO CURB- UP HILL
or DOWN HILL

Parking At Colored Curbs

A painted colored curb means that you must follow special parking rules. The colors on curbs mean:

White: Stop only long enough to pick up or drop off passengers or mail. (Usually at airport passenger terminals.)

Green: Park for a limited time. The time is usually shown on a sign next to the green zone, or painted on the curb.

Yellow: Stop here only long enough to load or unload passengers or freight—no longer than posted. Drivers of noncommercial vehicles are usually required to stay with their vehicle.

Red: No stopping, standing, or parking. (A bus may stop at a red zone marked for buses.)

Blue: Parking for the disabled *only*. You must have a disabled person parking placard (window sign) or disabled person or disabled veteran license plates.

This blue symbol also marks parking spaces and special areas for disabled people. Disabled persons may apply

for the special plates and/or a parking placard at any DMV office. With these plates or a placard, disabled people may park in special areas. No one else may park there. Holders of disabled person plates or placards may park for unlimited periods of time in parking spaces where a sign indicates a restricted time.

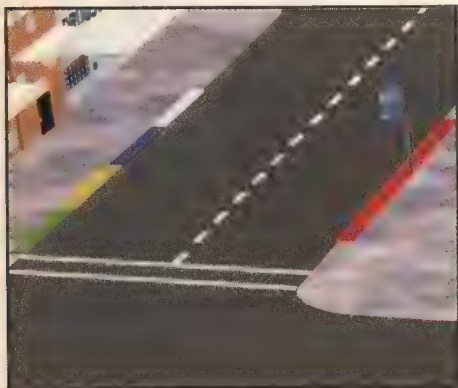


NOTE: Placard abuse results in cancellation or revocation of the placard and the loss of special parking privileges. Placard abuse is a misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine of \$250 to \$1000, imprisonment in county jail for up to six months, or both.

No Parking

Never park or leave your vehicle where it will block traffic. For example:

- In an intersection.
- On a crosswalk (marked or unmarked); or on a sidewalk.
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, or a fire station driveway.
- Within 3 feet of a sidewalk ramp for the disabled.
- On a freeway, except in an emergency or when an officer or device requires a stop, or where a stop is specifically permitted.
- In front of a driveway.
- In front of or on a curb constructed to provide wheelchair access to a sidewalk.



- In a space designated for parking or fueling zero-emission vehicles. The vehicle must display an identifying decal.
- At a red curb.
- In a tunnel or on a bridge, except where permitted by signs.
- Where signs say "No Parking."
- In a parking space for the disabled (unless you are disabled and have a special plate or placard).
- In the space next to a disabled parking space if painted in a crosshatched pattern. (VC §22507.8)



- On or within 7½ feet of a railroad track.
- Between a safety zone and curb.
- On the wrong side of the street.
- "Double parked" in the street just because all the parking places at the curb are taken.

If you must stop on a highway, park completely off the pavement. You must leave enough space for other vehicles to pass freely. Your

car should be visible 200 feet in each direction.

A vehicle that is stopped, parked, or left standing on a freeway (even if disabled) for more than four hours may be removed (VC §22651[f]).

Special Parking Rules

- When you park alongside a curb, the front and back wheels must be parallel and within 18 inches of the curb. If there is no curb, park parallel to the street. (VC §22502[a])
- Never leave your car until you have stopped the engine and set the parking brake.
- Don't open your door on the traffic side unless it is safe and doesn't interfere with traffic. Look for passing bicycles and motorcycles. Do not leave the door open any longer than is necessary to load or unload passengers.

MORE RULES YOU MUST KNOW

Do not:

- Drive a vehicle so loaded, either with property or persons, that you can't see ahead or to the sides of your vehicle or control it.
- Carry anything in or on a passenger vehicle which extends beyond the fenders on the left side or more than six inches beyond the fenders on the right side. A load extending more than four feet from the back of the vehicle must display a 12-inch

red or fluorescent orange square flag or two red lights at night.

- Allow anyone to ride on any part of your vehicle not intended for passengers.
- Allow a person to ride in the load space of your pickup or other truck unless the vehicle is equipped with seats and the person uses both the seat and a safety belt.
- Transport animals in the load space of a pickup or other truck unless the animal is properly secured.
- Dump or abandon animals on a highway. It is a crime punishable by a fine (up to \$1000), six months in jail, or both.
- Tow anyone who is riding a bicycle, in a wagon, on roller skates, on a sled, on skis, or on a toy vehicle.
- Sound your horn unless it is as a safety warning.
- Throw any cigarette, cigar, or other flaming or glowing substance from your vehicle.
- Shoot firearms on a highway or at traffic signs.
- Litter the roadside. You will be fined \$1000 and may be forced to pick up what you threw away. Littering convictions are shown on your driving record.
- Wear a headset over, or earplugs in, both your ears.

SIGNALS

Always signal to other drivers when you plan to turn left, right, slow down, or stop.

Motorcyclists often use hand signals to make themselves more visible. Bicycle riders may give right turn signals with their right arm held straight out, pointing right.

Signal your left or right turn during the last 100 feet before reaching the turning point. At highway speeds, it is best to signal at least five seconds before you change lanes.

If bright sunlight makes signal lights hard to see, use hand-and-arm signals also.



**LEFT
TURN**



**RIGHT
TURN**



**SLOW
OR
STOP**

SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES

VISUAL SEARCH (SCANNING)

Looking Ahead

To avoid last minute moves, you should look down the road 10 to 15 seconds ahead of your vehicle. A driver needs to look that far ahead to see hazards early. Constantly staring at the road just in front of your car is dangerous.

If you look far enough ahead, you will be able to see important things such as someone getting into a parked car.

In the city, you should look at least one block ahead which is about 10 to 15 seconds. On the highway, 10 to 15 seconds is about a quarter of a mile.

Take In the Whole Scene: Looking 10 to 15 seconds ahead does not mean looking only at the middle of the road. It means looking

at the side of the road as well. Looking from side to side helps you to see:

- Cars and people that may be in the road by the time you reach them.
- Signs warning of problems ahead.
- Signs giving you directions.

Keep your eyes moving (scanning). Look near and far. Turn your head before changing lanes, because mirrors have blind spots. These blind spots can hide a motorcycle or bicycle. Watch for things about to happen like a ball rolling into the street; a car door opening; a swerving bicycle.

Watch for Hazards: Look beyond the car ahead of you. Don't develop a "fixed stare." Look around. Keep your eyes moving. Check your rear view mirrors frequently (every 2 to 5 seconds) so that you know the position of vehicles near you.

On the freeway, be ready for changes in traffic conditions. Watch for signals from other drivers. Expect merging vehicles at onramps and interchanges. Be prepared for rapid changes in road conditions and traffic flow.

As you look ahead, think about what will (or might) happen on the road. Be alert for vehicles on either side, to the front, and to the rear. Use your mirrors. Leave enough space between you and the vehicle ahead for safe stops. Always leave yourself an "out." Mistakes cause



accidents. To protect yourself, know which lanes are clear so you can use them if you need to.

Looking To The Sides

Any time you come to a place where people may cross or enter your path, you should look to the sides to make sure no one is coming. Always look to the sides at intersections, crosswalks, and railroad crossings.

An **intersection** is any place where one line of traffic meets another. It includes:

- Cross streets, side streets, and alleys.
- Freeway entrances.

Follow these rules at intersections:

- Look both ways
 - look to the left first, since cars coming from the left are closer to you.
 - look to the right.
 - take one more look to the left before you pull out, just in case there is someone you didn't see the first time.
- Don't rely on traffic signals
 - some drivers do not obey traffic signals.
 - at an intersection, look left, right, and left again even if other traffic has a red light or a stop sign.
 - before you enter an intersection, look left, right,

and ahead for approaching traffic.

- Make sure you have a good view
 - If your view of a cross street is blocked by a building or a row of parked cars, edge forward slowly until you can see.

Crosswalks: Every intersection where streets with sidewalks meet "at about right angles" has a crosswalk for pedestrians even though there may be no painted lines. The crosswalk is that part of the pavement where the sidewalk lines would extend across the street and are areas set aside for people to cross the street. They are often marked with white lines. Yellow crosswalk lines may be painted at school crossings. Some crosswalks, especially in residential areas, are not marked.

Some crosswalks have flashing lights to warn you that pedestrians may be crossing. Whether or not the lights are flashing, you must look for pedestrians and be prepared to stop.

Most crosswalks are at corners. Sometimes they are in the middle of the block. Before turning a corner, watch for people who are about to cross the street. Remember, if you have a green light, the light is also green for them.

Pedestrians have the right-of-way in crosswalks. If you stop in the crosswalk, you are violating their

right-of-way and placing them in danger.

Roadside Areas: Whenever there is activity along the side of the road, there is a good chance someone will cross or enter the road. It is very important to look to the sides of the road when you are near:

- Shopping centers and parking lots.
- Construction areas.
- Busy sidewalks.
- Playgrounds and school yards, etc.

Looking Behind

It is a good idea to check traffic behind you often. You will know if cars are tailgating (following you too closely), coming up behind you too fast, or if you have time to get out of the way before a driver hits your vehicle from the rear.

It is very important to check behind you before you change lanes, slow down quickly, back up, or drive down a long or steep hill.

Whenever you change lanes, check behind you to make sure you are not getting in the way of cars in that lane. Changing lanes includes:

- Changing from one lane to another.
- Entering the freeway from an onramp.
- Entering the road from a curb or shoulder.



All Shaded Areas, Represent Driver's Blind Spots

Before changing lanes, signal and always check traffic behind and beside you by:

- Checking all mirrors.
- Glancing over your left or right shoulder to make sure the lane you want is clear. If you use only your left or inside rearview mirrors, you may not see vehicles near the rear of your vehicle because of a "blind spot."

When you must **slow down suddenly**, take a quick glance in your mirrors. You should also check your mirrors when you are preparing to turn into a side road or driveway, and when you are stopping to pull into a parking space.

Backing up is always dangerous because it is hard to see what is behind your vehicle. Whenever you need to back up or back out of a parking space, follow these rules:

- Check behind the car before you get in. Children and pets are hard to see from the driver's seat.
- Turn and look over your right shoulder when backing the

vehicle. Do not depend only on your mirrors or only looking out a side window.

- Always back slowly to avoid accidents.

On long, steep downgrades, keep a look out for large vehicles which can gather speed very quickly.

Having Clear Windows And Mirrors

Keep your windshield and side windows clean inside and out. Bright sun or headlights on a dirty window make it hard to see out. You should clear ice, frost, or dew from all windows and outside mirrors **before** you drive.

It is illegal to block your view of the road by putting signs or other objects on the front windshield. Don't hang things on the mirror. Don't block your view through the back or side windows with objects or signs.

Tinted safety glass is allowed in permitted locations. Motorists with sun-sensitive skin can use removable sun screens on their vehicle's side windows during daylight travel if they have a letter from their physician.

Windshield stickers, etc., are permitted only in four places:

- A seven inch square in the lower corner of the windshield farthest from the driver.
- A five inch square in the lower corner of the windshield nearest the driver.

- A seven inch square in the lower corner of the rear window farthest removed from the driver.
- Side windows to the rear of the driver.

Make sure you can see and be seen. If you drive in rain or snow, you may have to stop sometimes to wipe mud or snow off your windshield, headlights, and taillights.

Adjusting Your Seat And Mirrors

Always adjust the seat, mirrors, and safety belt before starting your vehicle. You may have an accident if you try to adjust them while driving. (See page 46)

Adjust your seat so that you are high enough to see the road. If you still can't see, use a seat cushion. Do this *before* putting on your safety belt.

Adjust your rear and side mirrors *before* you start driving. If your vehicle has a day/night mirror, learn how to use it. The night setting reduces the headlight glare from the cars behind you and helps you see better.

Wearing Glasses Or Contact Lenses

Follow your eye doctor's advice about glasses or corrective contact lenses. If your eye doctor tells you to wear them for driving, *do it*. If your license says you *must* wear "corrective lenses," wear them. You may be fined if you drive without wearing them.

Never wear dark glasses or sunglasses at night. Consult your eye doctor before wearing tinted contact lenses at night.

Don't wear eyeglasses with temples wide enough to keep you from seeing clearly to the sides.

How Well Can You See And Stop?

If something is in your path, you need to see it in time to be able to stop. Assuming you have good tires, good brakes, and dry pavement:

- At 55 mph, it takes about 400 feet to react to something you see and to bring the car to a complete stop.
- At 35 mph, it will take about 210 feet to react and to bring the car to a complete stop.

Adjust your driving to the weather and road conditions (basic speed law). Turn on your lights during the day if it is hard to see. **Don't drive with only your parking lights on.**

FOG: The best advice for driving in the fog is **DON'T**. You should consider postponing your trip until the fog clears. However, if you must drive, then slow down and turn on your low beam headlights. The light from high beams will reflect back and cause glare. **Never drive with just your parking or fog lights.**

Increase your following distance and be prepared to stop within the

space you can see in front of your vehicle. Avoid crossing or passing lanes of traffic unless absolutely necessary. Listen for traffic you cannot see. Use your wipers and defroster as necessary for best vision.

If the fog becomes so thick that you can barely see, pull **completely** off the road. Do not continue driving until you can see better. Turn off your lights or someone may see your taillights and drive into you.

DARKNESS: Drive more slowly at night because you cannot see as far. Motorcycles are harder to see at night because most have only one taillight. You will have less time to stop if there is a hazard ahead. Make sure you can stop within the distance lighted by your headlights.

More highway construction takes place at night. Reduce your speed.

You must turn your headlights on 30 minutes after sunset and leave them on until 30 minutes before sunrise. Also, turn your lights on any time you can't see at least 1000 feet ahead. Use your low beam headlights whenever it is raining. Don't drive with only your parking lights on.

Do not blind other drivers with your **high beam** headlights. Dim your lights to low beams within 500 feet of a vehicle coming toward you. If you are following another vehicle, change to low beams

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LAP AND SHOULDER BELT

IMPORTANT: The use of both a lap and shoulder belt can reduce injuries caused in some traffic accidents. Since lap belts can only reduce injuries in an accident, failure to install and wear both a shoulder belt and a lap belt may result in serious and fatal injuries to the head, spinal column, and abdominal organs. Shoulder belts can be adapted to most vehicles even if they were not factory installed.



within 300 feet. Use your high beams whenever possible as long as it is not illegal (i.e., in open country or on dark city streets).

When leaving a brightly lit place, drive slowly until your eyes adjust to the darkness.

Don't look directly into oncoming headlights. Look toward the right edge of your lane. Watch the oncoming car out of the corner of your eye. Do not try to "get back" at the other driver by keeping your bright lights on. If you do, both of you may be blinded.

Drive as far to the right as possible if a vehicle with one light comes toward you. It could be a bicycle or motorcycle, but it could also be a vehicle with a missing headlight.

In a very heavy rain or snowstorm, you may not be able to see more than 100 feet ahead. When you can't see any farther than that, you cannot safely drive faster than 30 mph. You may have to stop from time to time to wipe mud or snow off your windshield, headlights, and taillights.

Slow down at the first sign of rain, drizzle, or snow on the road. This is when many road pavements are most slippery because oil and dust have not been washed away.

If you drive in snowy areas, carry chains in case you find yourself in conditions where you can't drive without them. Make sure you carry the correct number of chains and that they will fit your drive wheels.

Learn how to put the chains on **before** you need to use them.

Hills and Curves: You never know what is on the other side of a steep hill or a sharp curve. When you come to a hill or curve, slow down so you can stop if a vehicle is stalled. You must be going slowly enough to stop.

HORN, HEADLIGHTS, AND EMERGENCY SIGNALS

Use Your Horn

- Use your horn when necessary to avoid accidents. Don't honk at other times.
- Try to get "eye contact" with other drivers. Tap your horn to alert another driver who might turn in front of you.
- On narrow mountain roads, drive as far to the right as possible and sound your horn where you cannot see at least 200 feet ahead.

Don't Use Your Horn

- If a driver is going slowly, don't honk just to make him or her hurry. The driver may be ill, lost, or may be having problems with the car.
- Never honk if slowing or stopping **your** car will prevent an accident. It's safer to use the brakes than push the horn.
- Don't honk simply to show other drivers that they have made a mistake. Your honking may upset them so much that they may make more mistakes.

- Never honk because **you** are angry or upset.

Use Your Headlights

- When it is cloudy, raining, snowing, or foggy.
- On frosty mornings when other drivers' windows may be icy or "foggy."
- Anytime you have trouble seeing other cars. Other drivers will be having trouble seeing you, too.
- On small country or mountain roads, it is a good idea to drive with your headlights on, even on sunny days. This will help other drivers see you and may help you avoid a head-on crash.

Under certain circumstances, you may have to flash your headlights to get another driver's attention.

Use Your Emergency Signals

If your car breaks down on the road, make sure that other drivers can see it. Many accidents happen because a driver didn't see a stalled vehicle until it was too late to stop. If you are having car trouble, and need to stop, follow these rules:

- Pull off the road away from all traffic, if possible.
- If you cannot get completely off the road, stop where people can see you and your car from behind. Don't stop just over a hill or just around a curve.
- Turn on your emergency flashers if you see a hazard or accident is ahead. Also, use your emergency

flashers if you are not moving. If your car doesn't have flashers, turn signals may be used instead.

- If it is safe, lift the hood to signal an emergency.
- Give other drivers plenty of warning. Place emergency flares or triangles 200 to 300 feet behind the car. This allows other drivers time to change lanes, if necessary. Be very careful when using flares. They may cause fires, especially when used near flammable liquids.
- If you don't have emergency flares, follow the rules listed above and stay in your vehicle until help arrives. Be careful for your safety and **stay off the road**. Remember, don't even try to change a tire if it means you have to stand in a traffic lane.

Signal When You Change Direction

Drivers signal:

- To let other drivers know their plans.
- Before pulling next to (or away from) the curb.
- Before turning or changing lanes. Use arm signals or the signal lights on your car. On sunny days, signal lights may be hard to see. If the sun is bright, use arm signals as well as signal lights. Caution—Even though you signal, do not automatically assume that the space you wish to occupy is clear. Look over

your shoulder to check your blind spot, before making a lane change.

- During the last 100 feet before turning or at least five seconds before changing lanes on the freeway
- When changing direction.
- Even when they don't see any cars around because they know a car they don't see might hit them.

If you plan to turn beyond an intersection, don't signal until you are actually in the intersection. If you signal too early, another driver may think you will turn before you reach him or her and might pull into your path.

If you plan to turn at an intersection (for example) which is close to a business driveway, be especially careful. People leaving that business may think you are turning into the driveway when you really intend to turn at the intersection. These drivers may pull out right in front of you. In a case like this, it might be better to signal after the driveway but before the intersection.

Check your signal after turning. Turn it off if it hasn't clicked off by itself.

Signal When You Slow Down Or Stop Suddenly

Never stop on the road, unless necessary for safety or to obey a

law. Start braking early as a signal to the cars behind you.

If you can see an accident ahead, warn the drivers behind you by turning on your emergency flashers or tapping your brake pedal quickly three or four times. You can also use the hand signal for slowing and stopping.

FOLLOWING DISTANCE

When another driver makes a mistake, you need time to react. Give yourself this time by keeping a "space cushion" on all sides of your vehicle. This space cushion will give you room to brake or maneuver if you need it.

Keep A Cushion Ahead

Many drivers don't see as well as they should because they follow too closely (tailgate), and the vehicle ahead blocks their view of the road.

Good drivers keep a safe following distance to see better. The more space you allow between your car and the car ahead, the more time you will have to see a hazard or accident down the road. You will have more time to stop, or to avoid the hazard.

Most rear end accidents are caused by tailgating. To avoid this, use the "three-second rule." When the vehicle ahead of you passes a certain point, such as a sign, count "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three." This takes about three seconds. If you

pass the same point before you finish counting, you are following too closely.

Sometimes you will need more than a "three-second" cushion. Give yourself a "four-second or more" cushion when:

- Crowded by a tailgater. Allow extra room between your car and the car ahead. Then, if you need to slow down you can do so gradually. You will be able to avoid braking suddenly—and being hit from behind by the tailgater!
- Driving on slippery roads. If the car ahead should slow or stop, you will need more distance to stop your car.
- Following motorcycles. If the motorcycle falls, you'll have to avoid hitting the rider. Motorcycles fall more often on wet or icy roads, on metal surfaces (i.e., bridge gratings, railroad tracks, etc.), and on gravel.
- The driver behind you wants to pass. Slow down to allow room in front of your car so the driver will have space to move into.
- Pulling a trailer or carrying a heavy load. The extra weight makes it harder to stop.
- Following large vehicles that block your view ahead. You need the extra room to see around the vehicle and to the sides.
- You see a bus, school bus, or a placarded vehicle. These

vehicles must stop at railroad crossings. Expect the stops; slow down early to allow plenty of room.

- Merging on a freeway.

If you follow too closely and another driver "cuts" in front of you, the normal reaction is to slam on your brakes and swerve out of the way. Swerving out of the way most often results in cutting someone else off or possibly driving off the roadway. It might also result in the car behind you crashing into you or other cars around you.

If another driver "cuts" in front of you, just take your foot off the gas. This will give you space between your car and the other driver without swerving into another lane.

Keep A Cushion To The Side

Keep a space cushion on each side of your car.

- Don't drive in another driver's blind spot. The other driver may not see your car and could change lanes and hit you.
- Avoid driving alongside other cars on multilane streets. Someone may crowd your lane or try to change lanes and pull into you. Move ahead of the other car or drop back.
- Keep as much space as you can between yourself and oncoming traffic. On multilane streets, stay out of the lane next to the center line, if you can. That way you will have more room to avoid an

oncoming car that suddenly swerves toward you.

- If possible, make room for vehicles entering freeways even though you have the right-of-way.
- At freeway exits, don't drive alongside other cars. A driver on the freeway may pull off suddenly or a driver leaving the freeway may swerve back on.
- Keep a space between yourself and parked cars. Someone may step out from between them. A car door may open. A car may pull out suddenly.
- Be careful when riding near bicycles. A bicycle rider could be seriously hurt in an accident. Always leave plenty of room between your car and any bicycle. Watch carefully for bicycles before turning. (See page 56)

Keep A Cushion Behind

Watch for tailgaters! If one is following you, be careful! Brake slowly before stopping. Tap your brake lightly a few times to warn the tailgater you are slowing down.

"Lose" the tailgater as soon as you can by changing lanes. If you can't change lanes, slow down enough to encourage the tailgater to go around you. If this does not work, pull off the road when it is safe and let the tailgater pass.

Taking Dangers One At A Time

Suppose there is an oncoming car to your left and a child on a bike to

your right. Instead of driving between the car and the child, take one danger at a time. First, slow down and let the car pass. Then, move to the left to allow plenty of room before you pass the child.

Splitting The Difference

Sometimes there will be dangers on both sides of the road at the same time. For example, there will be parked cars to the right and oncoming cars to the left. In this case, the best thing to do is "split the difference." Steer a middle course between the oncoming cars and the parked cars.

If one danger is greater than the other, give the most room to the worst danger. Suppose there are oncoming cars to the left of you and a child on a bike to the right. The child is most likely to make a sudden move. Therefore, give him or her the most room by moving closer to the oncoming cars.

Allow A Cushion For Problem Drivers

There are certain people you should give a lot of room to. Here are some of them.

- Drivers who cannot see you such as:
 - drivers at intersections or driveways, whose view is blocked by buildings, trees, or other cars.
 - drivers backing out of driveways or parking spaces; drivers whose windows are

covered with snow or ice; people with umbrellas in front of their faces or hats pulled down over their eyes.

- People who may be distracted such as:
 - delivery persons.
 - construction workers.
 - children, who often run into the street without looking.
 - drivers talking on cellular telephones.
 - drivers talking to their passengers, taking care of children, or looking at maps while driving.
- People who may be confused such as:
 - tourists, often at complicated intersections.
 - drivers who slow down for what seems to be no apparent reason.
 - drivers looking for a house number.
- Drivers who need help such as:
 - a driver who passes you as you approach a curve or an oncoming car.
 - A driver who is about to be forced into your lane by a vehicle, a pedestrian, a bicyclist, an obstruction, or fewer lanes ahead.

SAFETY BELTS

Use your lap belt or your lap and shoulder belts if your vehicle is

equipped with them. Wear both the lap and shoulder belt even if the vehicle is equipped with air bags. If you wear only a lap belt when driving, your chances of living through an accident are twice as good as someone who doesn't wear a lap belt. If you wear a lap and shoulder belt, your chances are three to four times better. Pregnant women should wear the lap belt as low as possible under the abdomen and the shoulder strap between the breasts and to the side of the abdomen's bulge.

The safety belt must be in good working order and must be worn by you and any passenger who is age six or older or who weighs 60 lbs. or more while the car is moving. If not, you may be given a traffic ticket. Also, you will be given the ticket if your passenger is younger than 16.

WARNING: The use of seat belts reduces the chance of being thrown from your vehicle in case of an accident. If you don't install and use a shoulder harness with the lap belt, serious or fatal injuries may happen in some crashes. Lap-only belts increase the chance of spinal column and abdominal injuries—especially in children. Shoulder harnesses may be available for your vehicle, if it is not already equipped with them.

Myths About Seat Belts

About one person in three is injured or killed in a traffic accident. Safety belts can reduce injuries and deaths.

Many studies and actual crash tests have proven this. Have you heard some of these stories about seat belts before?

- “Safety belts can trap you inside a car.” It actually takes less than a second to take off a safety belt. This scare tactic often describes a car that caught fire or sank in deep water. A safety belt may keep you from being “knocked out.” Your chance to escape is better if you are conscious.
- “Safety belts are good on long trips, but I don’t need them if I’m driving around town.” Half of all traffic deaths happen within 25 miles of home. Don’t take chances with your life or the lives of your passengers. Buckle up every time you drive.
- “Some people are thrown clear in a crash and walk away with hardly a scratch.” Your chances of surviving an accident are five times as good if you stay inside the car. A safety belt can keep you from being thrown into the path of another car.
- “I’m only going to the store. My child doesn’t need a safety seat, anyway. It’s too much hassle.” Car accidents are the No. 1 preventable cause of death for children. Buckle them up in an approved safety seat. It’s worth it, and the law requires that you do.

These pictures illustrate what can happen in an accident. Your car

stops, but you keep on going at the same speed you were traveling until you hit the dashboard or windshield. At 30 mph this is like hitting the ground from the top of a three-story building.

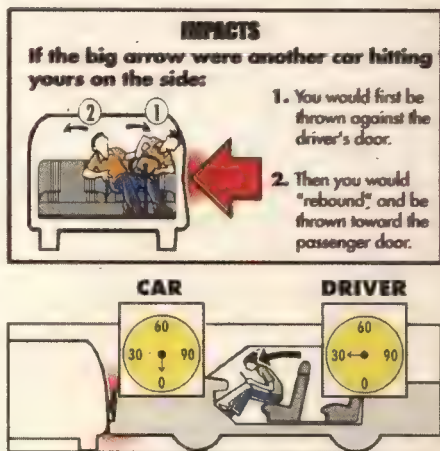
If you were struck from the side, the impact could push you back and forth across the seat. Belts and straps keep you in a better position to control the car.

CHILD SAFETY SEATS

A child passenger restraint system is required for any child who is under the age of six or who weighs under 60 pounds. Either a seat belt or a child passenger restraint system may be used for each person who is age six or older or who weighs 60 pounds or more.

Here are some additional tips for using a child safety seat:

- The back seat is generally the safest place in the car for all children 12 years of age or younger.



- Babies up to 20 lbs. and about age one should ride in a safety seat secured to the back seat facing the rear of the car. Make sure the vehicle's seat belt is put through the correct slot in the safety seat. Incorrectly fastened safety seats defeat their purpose and can result in injury. **NOTE:** Babies should not be placed forward or backward in the front passenger seat if the vehicle has a passenger-side air bag.
- Toddlers over 20 lbs. and about age one or older should ride in the back seat buckled into an approved child safety seat.

RIDING SAFELY WITH AIR BAGS

Most people can take steps to eliminate or reduce risk without turning off air bags. The biggest risk is being too close to the air bag. An air bag needs about 10 inches of space to inflate. Ride at least 10 inches (measured from the center of the steering wheel to your breastbone) from the air bag cover if you can do this while maintaining full control of the vehicle. If you cannot safely sit 10 inches away from the air bag, contact your vehicle dealer or manufacturer for advice about additional ways of moving back from your air bag.

Passengers should also sit at least 10 inches away from the air bag.

UNATTENDED CHILDREN IN MOTOR VEHICLES

It is illegal to leave a child six years of age or younger unattended in a motor vehicle when:

- There are conditions that present a significant risk to the child's health or safety. Example: leaving a child in a closed car on a very hot day.
- The vehicle's engine is running, the keys are in the ignition, or both. Example: children can start or move the car causing injuries and/or deaths to themselves or others.

Exception: The child may be left under the supervision of a person 12 years of age or older.

The court may fine violators and require the person to attend a community education program. Also, the penalties for leaving an unattended child in a vehicle are more severe if the child is injured, requires emergency medical services, or dies.

MERGING, PASSING, AND ENTERING TRAFFIC

Whenever you enter traffic, signal and be sure you have enough room to enter safely. You have to share space with traffic already on the road and must know how much space you need to:

- Merge with traffic.
- Cross or enter traffic.
- Pass other cars,

Space To Merge

Enter the freeway at or near the speed of traffic. (Remember that the maximum speed allowed is 65 mph on most freeways.) **Do not stop before merging with freeway traffic** unless absolutely necessary. Freeway traffic has the right of way.

Any time you merge with other traffic, you need a gap of four seconds. That will give both you and the car you merge in front of a two-second following distance.

- Don't try to squeeze into a gap that is too small. Leave yourself a big enough space cushion.
- Watch for vehicles around you. Use your mirrors and turn signals. Turn your head to look quickly to the side before changing lanes. Leave three seconds of space between you and the vehicle ahead. Make sure you can stop safely if you must.
- If you have to cross several lanes, cross them one at a time. If you stop to wait until all lanes are clear, you will tie up traffic and may cause an accident.

Space To Cross Or Enter

Whenever you cross or enter traffic from a full stop, you will need a large enough gap (from cars approaching in either direction) to get up to the speed of other vehicles. You need a gap that is:

- About half a block on city streets.
- About a full block on the highway.

If you are crossing lanes or turning, make sure there are no cars or people blocking the path ahead or the path to the side. You don't want to be caught in an intersection with traffic coming at you.

Even if you have the green light, don't start across if there are cars blocking your way. It is against the law to enter an intersection unless there is space to get completely across it. You can receive a citation if you block other traffic.

Don't start a turn just because an approaching car has a turn signal on. The driver may plan to turn just beyond you. The signal may have been left on from an earlier turn. This is particularly true of motorcycles. Their signal lights don't always turn off by themselves. Wait until the other driver actually starts to turn before you continue.

Space To Exit

When you plan to exit the freeway, make sure to give yourself plenty of time. You should know the freeway exit you want as well as the one that comes before it. To exit safely, you should:

- Change lanes one at a time until you are in the proper lane to exit the freeway.
- Signal your intention to exit—approximately five seconds.
- Be sure you are at the proper speed for leaving the traffic lane—not too fast (so you won't lose control) and not too slow

(so the flow of traffic can still move freely).

Space To Pass

Avoid passing other vehicles, including motorcycles and bicycles, on two-lane roads. It is dangerous. Every time you pass, you increase your chances of having an accident. Ask yourself if the risk is worth the few minutes you will gain. Remember, whenever you pass another vehicle on a two-lane road you must enter a lane that belongs to oncoming cars.

At highway speeds of 50 to 55 mph, you need a 10 to 12 second gap in oncoming traffic to pass safely. You must judge whether or not you have enough room to pass whenever you approach:

- An oncoming car.
- A hill or a curve.
- An intersection.
- A road obstruction.

Be patient when passing a bicyclist. Slow down and pass only when it is safe. Do not squeeze the bicyclist off the road.

Oncoming Vehicles

At 55 mph, you will travel over 800 feet in 10 to 12 seconds. So will an oncoming vehicle. That means you need over 1600 feet (or about one-third of a mile) to pass safely. It is hard to judge the speed of oncoming vehicles one-third of a mile away. They don't seem to be coming as fast as they really are. A

vehicle that is far enough away generally appears to be standing still. In fact, if you can really see it moving closer to you, it is probably too close for you to start to pass.

Hills Or Curves

To pass safely, you must be able to see at least one-third of a mile. Any time your view is blocked by a hill or a curve, you should assume that there is an oncoming car just out of sight. This means you should only pass if a hill or curve is one-third of a mile or more away.

You **MUST NOT** drive on the left side of a roadway when coming to a curve or the top of a hill where you can't see far enough ahead to be sure it is safe to pass.

Intersections

It is dangerous to pass another vehicle where someone is likely to enter or cross the road. Such places include crossroads, railroad crossings, and shopping center entrances. While you are passing, your view of people, cars, motorcycles, bicycles, or a train is blocked by the car you are passing. Also, a driver turning onto the road into the left lane won't expect to find you in his lane. He or she may not even look your way.

Lane Restrictions

Before you pass, look ahead for road conditions and traffic that may cause other cars to move over into your lane.

Space To Return

Always signal before passing. Don't pull out to pass unless you know you have enough space to return. Before you return to the driving lane, be sure you aren't dangerously close to the car you have just passed. One way to do this is to look for the car in your inside rear view mirror. When you can see both headlights, you have enough room to return to the driving lane. Don't count on having enough time to pass several cars at once. Don't count on other drivers making room for you.

On A One Lane Mountain Road

When two vehicles meet on a steep road where neither can pass, the vehicle facing downhill must back up until the vehicle going uphill can pass. (The driver going downhill has the greater amount of control when backing.)

SHARING THE ROAD WITH OTHER VEHICLES

LARGE TRUCKS AND RVs

To reduce the chance of an accident with a large truck or RV, motorists must be familiar with a big rig's physical capabilities and how they maneuver.

Braking

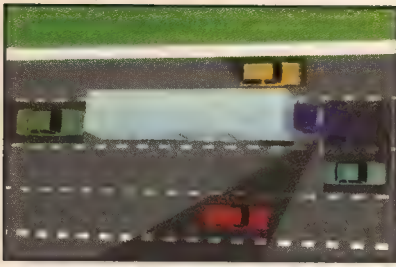
Large trucks take longer to stop than a car traveling at the same speed. The average passenger vehicle traveling at 55 mph can stop in about 400 feet. However, a large truck traveling at the same speed can take almost 800 feet to stop. Don't pull in front of a large truck and suddenly slow down or stop. The trucker will not be able to stop quickly enough to avoid crashing into you.

Turning

For all turning vehicles, the rear wheels follow a shorter path than the front wheels. The longer the vehicle, the greater the difference. This is why big rig drivers must often swing wide to complete a right turn. When you follow a big rig, look at its turn signals before you start to pass. If you think the truck is turning left—wait a second and check the turn signals again. The driver may actually be turning right.

Trucker's Blind Spots

Passenger vehicle drivers incorrectly assume that a trucker can see the road better because



All Shaded Areas Represent The Driver's Blind Spots

they are higher off the road. While truckers do have a better forward view and bigger mirrors, they still have serious blind spots. Your vehicle can get lost in those blind spots. If you stay in those blind spots you block the trucker's ability to take evasive action to avoid a dangerous situation. Generally speaking, if you can't see the truck driver in his or her side mirror, he or she can't see you. These blind spots are often called the "NO ZONE."

Maneuverability

Trucks are designed to transport products and they are not as maneuverable as passenger vehicles. Large trucks have longer stopping and starting distances. They take more space for turns and they weigh more. On multilane highways and freeways, large trucks usually stay in the center portion of the lane to help the flow of traffic. This also increases the trucker's options in case he or she must change lanes to avoid a hazard. Here are some of the most common mistakes passenger

vehicle drivers must avoid when driving around large trucks.

- **Cutting off a truck in traffic or on the highway to reach your exit or turn.** Cutting into the open space in front of a truck is dangerous. Trying to beat a truck through a single-lane construction zone, for example, removes the truck driver's cushion of safety and places you in danger. Slow down and take your turn entering the construction zone. Don't speed up to pass a truck so you can exit the roadway. Take a moment to slow down and exit behind a truck—it will only take you a few extra seconds.
- **Don't linger alongside a truck when passing.** Always pass a large truck on the left side and after you pass the truck, move ahead of it. Don't linger. If you linger beside the truck, you make it very difficult, if not impossible, for the trucker to take evasive action if an obstacle appears in the road ahead.
- **Following too closely or tailgating.** When you follow behind a truck and you cannot see the truck driver's side view mirrors, the trucker has no way of knowing you are there. Tailgating a truck, or any vehicle, is dangerous because you take away your own cushion of safety. Where will you go when the vehicle in front of you stops quickly?

- **Never underestimate the size and speed of an approaching tractor-trailer.** A large tractor-trailer often *appears* to be traveling at a slower speed because of its large size. Many passenger vehicle vs. large truck accidents take place at intersections because the passenger vehicle driver did not realize how close the truck was or how quickly it was traveling.

SCHOOL BUSES

You may come upon a school bus which is stopped and flashing yellow lights. This is a warning for you to prepare to stop because the children are preparing to leave the bus.

When you come upon a school bus stopped on either side of the road with flashing red lights, you must stop. The flashing red lights are located at the top front and top back of the bus. Schoolchildren will be crossing the road to or from the school bus. Remain stopped as long as the red lights are flashing. Failure to do so is a violation of



All Vehicles Must Stop

VC §22454. You may be fined up to \$1000 and your driving privilege could be suspended for a period of one year.

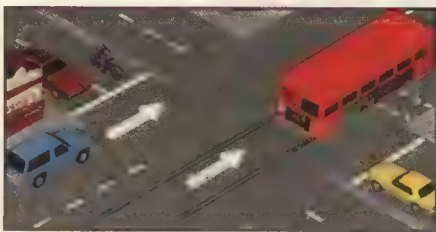
You need not stop if the bus is *on the other side of a divided or a multilane (two or more traffic lanes in each direction) highway.*

BUSES AND STREETCARS

Do not drive through a safety zone, which is a space set aside for pedestrians and marked by raised buttons or markers on a roadway.

When people are boarding or leaving a streetcar where there is no safety zone, stop behind the nearest door or vehicle platform and wait until the people have reached a safe place.

Safety Zones bordered by Dotted White Lines



When a bus or streetcar is stopped at a safety zone or at an intersection where traffic is controlled by a police officer or traffic signal, you may pass, as long as it is safe to do so, and at no more than 10 mph.

Do not overtake and pass any interurban train or streetcar on the left side, whether it is moving or

standing. Exceptions: when you are on a one-way street; when the tracks are so close to the right side that you cannot pass on the right; or when a traffic officer directs you to pass on the left.

LIGHT RAIL VEHICLES (TROLLEYS)

Light rail vehicles, or trolleys, have the same rights and responsibilities on public roadways as other vehicles. Although everyone must follow the same traffic laws, trolleys, because of their size, require exceptional handling ability.

Here are some specific steps you can take to safely share the road with trolleys:

- Be aware of where trolleys operate.
- Never turn in front of an approaching trolley.
- Be aware that buildings, trees,

Do Not Turn in Front of a Light Rail Vehicles



etc., cause blind spots for the trolley operator.

- Maintain a safe distance from the trolley if it shares a street with vehicular traffic.
- Look for approaching trolleys before you turn across the tracks. Complete your turn only if a signal (if installed) indicates you may proceed.

NOTE: Trolleys can ^{control} interrupt traffic signals, so do not proceed until the signal light indicates you may.

EMERGENCY VEHICLES

You must yield the right-of-way to a police car, fire engine, ambulance, or other emergency vehicle using a siren and red light. Drive as close to the right edge of the road as possible and stop until the emergency vehicle(s) has passed. However, **don't stop in an intersection.** If you are in an intersection when you see an emergency vehicle, continue through the intersection and then drive to the right as soon as you can and stop. Emergency vehicles often use the wrong side of the street to continue on their way. They sometimes use a loud speaker to talk to drivers blocking their path.

It is against the law to follow within 300 feet of any emergency vehicle which is answering an emergency call.

If you drive for sight-seeing purposes to the scene of a fire, accident, or other disaster you may

Yield to Emergency Vehicles Pull to the Right Edge of the Road and Stop.



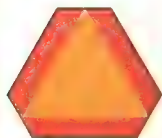
be arrested. Casual observers interfere with the essential services of police, fire fighter, ambulance crews, or other rescue or emergency personnel.

You must obey any traffic direction, order, or signal by a traffic or police officer or a fire fighter. Obey any order in emergency or special situations, even if it conflicts with existing signs, signals, or laws.

SLOW MOVING VEHICLES

Some vehicles are not designed to keep up with the speed of traffic. Look for these vehicles and adjust your speed before you reach them.

Farm tractors, animal-drawn carts, and road maintenance vehicles usually travel 25 mph or less. Slow



moving vehicles have an orange triangle on the back. It looks like this sign.

Also, be aware that large trucks and small, underpowered cars lose speed on long or steep hills and they take longer to get up to speed when entering traffic.

Certain other types of slow moving motorized vehicles (such as wheelchairs, scooters and golf carts) may legally operate on public roads. Adjust your speed accordingly.

ANIMAL-DRAWN VEHICLES

Horse-drawn vehicles and riders of horses or other animals are entitled to share the road with you. It is a traffic offense to scare horses or stampede livestock. Slow down or stop, if necessary, and when requested to do so by the riders or herders.

MOTORCYCLES

Motorcyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as automobile drivers. While everyone must follow the same traffic laws, motorcyclists face unusual dangers because motorcycles are hard to see and require exceptional handling ability. Because they are hard to see, many motorcycles keep their headlight on, even during daylight hours.

Here is what you can do to share the road safely with motorcyclists:

- When you change lanes or enter a major thoroughfare, make a

visual check for motorcycles. Also use your mirrors. Motorcycles are small and they can tuck easily into a vehicle's blind spot.

- Allow a four-second following distance to allow you time to avoid hitting the motorcyclist if he or she falls.
- Allow the motorcycle a full lane width. Although it is not *illegal* to share lanes with motorcycles, it is *unsafe*.
- When you make a turn, check for motorcyclists and know their speed before turning.
- Remember that road conditions which are minor annoyances to you pose major hazards to motorcyclists. Potholes, wet or slippery surfaces, railroad crossings, and grooved pavement can cause motorcyclists to change speed or direction suddenly. If you are aware of the effect of these conditions and drive with care and attention, you can help reduce motorcycle accidents, injuries, and fatalities.

Ride a straight line—don't turn in and out between parked cars. Leave space to avoid suddenly opened doors.



Stop, look before crossing.



Merge left to pass the red vehicle turning right

BICYCLES

Bicycle riders (cyclists) on public streets have the same rights and responsibilities as automobile drivers. Cyclists are part of the normal traffic flow and are entitled to share the road with other drivers. Here are some critical points for drivers and cyclists to remember:

- Cyclists must ride in the same direction as other traffic, not against it. They should normally ride in a straight line as near to the right curb or edge of the roadway as practical. Not on the sidewalk. Cyclists can legally

RIGHT

WRONG



move left to turn left, to pass a parked or moving vehicle, another bicycle, an animal, or to make a turn, avoid debris, or other hazards. They may also choose to ride near the left curb or edge of a one-way street.

- Cyclists make left and right turns in the same way that drivers do, using the same turn lanes. Cyclists can use a left turn lane. If the cyclist is traveling straight ahead, he or she should use a through traffic lane rather than ride next to the curb and block traffic making right turns.
- Drivers should look carefully for cyclists before opening doors next to moving traffic or *before turning right*. Merge safely toward the curb or into the bike lane. Do not overtake a cyclist just before making a right turn. Merge first, then turn.
- In some cases, cyclists are lawfully permitted to ride on certain sections of freeways. Be careful when approaching or passing a cyclist on a freeway.
- Drivers must be careful when driving close to cyclists. Drivers should allow a minimum of three feet of space between the vehicle and bicycle when passing.
- Before passing a cyclist in a *narrow* traffic lane, wait until the traffic is clear in the opposite lane and then change lanes to pass the cyclist. Do not attempt to squeeze past the cyclist.

PEDESTRIANS WHO ARE BLIND

Pedestrians using guide dogs or white canes with or without a red tip must be given the right-of-way *at all times*. These pedestrians are partially or totally blind so be especially careful when turning corners or backing up.

Here are some suggestion for helping pedestrians who are blind:

- **Don't stop your car more than five feet from the crosswalk.** The blind pedestrian uses the sound of your engine as a guide, so pull right up to the crosswalk to allow the person to hear you.
- **Don't give the blind pedestrian verbal directions.** The blind pedestrian listens to all traffic sounds before deciding to cross the street.
- **Don't wait too long for the blind pedestrian to cross the street.** If the person takes a step back and pulls in his or her cane, that's a definite sign the driver should go.



- **Don't turn right on red without looking first.** Look for any pedestrian or other traffic first before starting your turn.
- **Stop at all crosswalks where pedestrians are waiting.**
- **Don't stop in the middle of a crosswalk.** This forces the blind pedestrian to go around your car and into traffic outside of the crosswalk.
- **Don't block any sidewalk.**
- **Don't honk at a blind person.** The blind person has no idea who you are honking at and may be scared by the noise.

ROAD WORKERS

Highway workers warn you of their presence by using orange signs, equipment, flags, and reflective vests. It's up to you to ensure both your own and the workers' safety by driving slowly through construction zones. **THE HIGHWAY WORKER'S LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS.**

Vehicles used to maintain the highways are painted orange. Be prepared to slow down or stop for them. When you see orange equipment on the road, workers will be nearby.

One or more lanes may be closed when road work is going on. Orange signs and changeable message boards



warn you that people and slow moving equipment are ahead. Signs will tell you which lanes are closed and a line of orange cones will direct you to the open lanes. Do not cross the line of cones.

Don't stop or slow down to watch road work. Keep going at the posted speed limit for the construction zone. Obey any special signs or instructions from signal persons at road construction sites.

NOTE: Fines are doubled in highway construction or maintenance zones when workers are present. (VC §42010)

RAILROAD (TRAIN) CROSSINGS

Signs along the road and/or painted on the pavement tell you a railroad crossing is ahead. Look in both directions and listen for trains. Many crossings have multiple tracks so be ready and able to stop before crossing, if necessary.

You should expect a train on any track, at any time, traveling in either direction. If you need to stop after crossing the tracks, make sure your vehicle clears the crossing before you stop.

A train cannot stop quickly or swerve out of the way. If you are on the tracks, you risk injury or death. Never stop on the railroad tracks.

Watch for vehicles that must stop before crossing the tracks such as buses, school buses, and trucks transporting hazardous loads.

Flashing red lights mean STOP! Stop at least 15 feet from the nearest track when:

- The crossing devices are active.
- A person warns you a train is coming.
- You see a train coming.
- You hear the whistle, horn, or bell of an approaching train.

Do not go around or under lowered railroad crossing gates, even if you do not see a train. Wait for the gates to rise. If you think the gates are not working correctly, call the railroad emergency number posted near the crossing or notify the local police or California Highway Patrol.

Cross railroad tracks only at designated crossings and only when safe to do so.

TROLLEY CROSSINGS

The same rules apply to trolley crossings as to train crossings. Do not proceed across the tracks until you can see clearly in both directions and are sure that no other trolley or train is coming.

Do not go around or under any closed gate.

NOTE: Trolleys are very quiet and move more quickly than freight trains.

HAZARDOUS LOADS

Diamond shaped signs like those shown below mean that the load on the truck is dangerous. CHP or fire department officers know what to do if the load is accidentally spilled. Vehicles which display these signs, must stop before crossing railroad tracks.



MOBILITY AND GRIDLOCK

DEALING WITH TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Chronic traffic congestion is the California commuter's biggest headache, but even small changes in driving habits could provide fast relief, according to the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS).

Several driving behaviors which contribute to congestion include:

- **Rubbernecking**—perhaps the most frustrating of behaviors. Slowing down to look at accidents or virtually anything else out of the ordinary, is one of the worst congestion offenders.
- **Tailgating**—following too closely is common on California freeways, accounting for innumerable accidents which in turn clog major freeways, often for hours.
- **Unnecessary lane changes**—although it produces virtually no improvement in arrival times, many motorists insist on weaving in and out of freeway lanes, which slows down all traffic.
- **Inattention**—commuters can commonly be seen eating, grooming in the rearview mirror, talking on a cellular telephone, and even reading the newspaper as they drive to work.

Traffic congestion can also be caused by drivers who do not watch the fuel gauge or maintain their vehicles properly. These vehicles

can malfunction or stall on freeways or surface streets and cause bottlenecks and major slow downs in traffic flow.

DEALING WITH ROAD RAGE

Road rage happens when one driver reacts angrily to another driver. Angry drivers may lash out by deliberately braking suddenly, pulling close to another car, or taking more violent steps such as coercing a driver to pull over to "settle" the dispute.

Here are suggestions to avoid provoking other drivers:

- *Don't cut off other drivers.* When you merge, make sure you have enough room and always signal before you merge.
- *Don't drive slowly in the left (fast) lane.* Avoid using the fast lane except for the brief time it takes to pass another driver. Driving slowly in the fast lane frustrates other drivers.
- *Don't tailgate.* Many drivers get angry when they are followed too closely. Remember to keep the appropriate following distance between you and the car ahead of you.
- *Don't signal gestures to other drivers.* Keep your hands on the steering wheel. Making obscene gestures to other drivers may provoke him or her.
- *Use your horn for emergencies only.* Even a polite tap of your horn may be enough to provoke another driver.

You can protect yourself from becoming involved in a potentially violent incident by following some basic tips:

- *Avoid eye contact with an angry driver.* To some people, eye contact is the same as a challenge. If someone is determined to act out his or her frustrations, even a friendly smile can be misinterpreted.
- *Give an angry driver plenty of space.* If you make a driving error (even accidentally), it is possible the other driver may try and pick a fight with you. Put as much distance between your vehicle and the other car as you can.

DEALING WITH TECHNOLOGY

Cellular telephones are everywhere. In an emergency, they can be a lifesaver. In non-emergency situations, they can be a great tool if you use the cellular telephone in a safe and responsible manner. Here are some tips:

- *Pull over to the side of the road to use your cellular telephone.* This is the safest precaution you can take.
- *Know your cellular telephone.* Get to know your phone and its many features such as speed dial and redial. Take advantage of these features so you won't take your attention off the road.
- *Use hands free devices.* If available, use a hands free device.

Two hands on the steering wheel is always safer than one.

- *Your phone should be within easy reach.* If your phone is within reach you can grab it without taking your eyes off the road.
- *Don't use the telephone during hazardous conditions.* If your driving conditions are hazardous (heavy traffic, construction zones, hazardous weather conditions, etc.), tell your caller that you are driving and will call back. Remember, your first responsibility is to pay attention to the road.
- *Pay attention to the road.* While you are driving, don't take notes or look up phone numbers. If you are busy doing other things, you are not paying attention to your driving.
- *Be sensible about dialing.* If possible, place your calls when you are not moving or before pulling into traffic.
- *Don't engage in distracting conversations.* Stressful or emotional conversations don't mix with safe driving. This combination can be dangerous because you are not paying attention to your driving. Tell your caller that you are driving and will call back. Be safe!
- *Use your phone to call for help.* Dial 9-1-1 for emergency help. This is a free call on your cellular phone. For other non-emergency situations (broken-down vehicle,

broken traffic signal, etc.), call roadside assistance or other special non-emergency wireless number.

ACCIDENT AVOIDANCE

Let other drivers know what you plan to do. By following the suggestions below, you may be able to avoid an accident.

Keep Your Car Where It Can Be Seen

The driver's blind spots are shown in the picture below. The driver cannot see vehicles in these blind spots when looking only in the mirrors. The driver must turn his or her head in order to see a car in one of these blind spots. Drive through another driver's blind spot as quickly as you can or drop back.

Adjusting Speed

California's "Basic Speed Law" says that you must never drive faster than is safe for the current conditions. No matter what the speed limit sign may say your speed should depend on:

- The number, and speed, of other cars on the road.
- Whether the road surface is

smooth, rough, graveled, wet, dry, wide, or narrow.

- Bicyclists, or pedestrians walking on the edge of the road.
- The amount of rain, fog, snow, ice, wind, or dust.

For example, if you are driving 45 mph in a 55 mph speed zone during a dense fog, you could be cited by a police officer for driving "too fast for conditions."

Remember—Even though you may think it is safe, you may never legally drive faster than the posted speed limit.

What Is The Road Like

The faster the speed, the less control you have of your car. Rather than just looking at the legal posted speed limit, you should consider what may affect the safe operation of your car. For example, should you drive 35 mph (the posted speed limit) on a curve down an icy mountain road? Many new drivers do not slow to safe speeds for each road. That is one reason why new drivers have more "out-of-control" accidents than experienced drivers.

Curves

On curves, there is a strong outward pull on your vehicle especially when the road is slippery. Rain, mud, snow, or gravel make the road slippery. Sometimes a speed limit is not posted before a curve on the highway. You must judge how sharp the curve is and change your speed, if necessary. Slow

Shaded Areas Represent Driver's Blind Spots



down *before* you enter the curve. Braking on a curve may cause you to skid.

Water On The Road

Slow down when there is a lot of water on the road. In a heavy rain, your tires can lose all contact with the road at about 50 mph. Your car will be riding on water or "hydroplaning." A slight change of direction or a gust of wind could throw your car into a skid. If your vehicle starts to hydroplane, slow down gradually—don't apply the brakes.

Slippery Roads

Slow down at the first sign of rain on the road. This is when many roads are the most slippery because oil and dust have not been washed away. If the road is slippery, it will not give your tires the grip they need. You must drive more slowly than you would on a dry road.

Here are some guidelines to help you adjust speed:

- Wet road—go 5 to 10 miles slower.
- Packed snow—cut speed in half.
- Ice—slow to a crawl.

Some road surfaces are more slippery than others when wet. These roads usually have warning signs. Here are some clues to help you spot slippery roads:

- On cold, wet days, shade from trees or buildings can hide spots of ice. These areas freeze first and dry out last.

- Bridges and overpasses tend to freeze before the rest of the road does. They can hide spots of ice.
- If it starts to rain on a hot day, the pavement can be very slippery for the first few minutes. Heat causes oil in the asphalt to come to the surface. The oil makes the road slippery until it is washed off.

Driving In Traffic

Drive slower in heavy traffic because you have less room. Drive slower so you can stop in the distance you have.

As a general rule, drive more slowly:

- In shopping centers, parking lots, and downtown areas.
- On roads with heavy traffic.
- When you see brake lights coming on several vehicles ahead of you.
- Over narrow bridges and through tunnels.
- Through toll plazas.
- Near schools, playgrounds, and in residential areas.

How Fast Is Traffic Moving?

Accidents tend to happen when one driver is going faster or slower than other cars on the road.

If you are going faster than traffic, you will have to keep passing other cars. Each time you pass another car, there is more risk of an accident. The car you are passing may change lanes suddenly. On a

two-lane road, an oncoming car may appear suddenly. True, it may not be a big risk, but if you are passing one car after another, the risks begin to add up. Studies have shown that speeding does not save more than a few minutes in an hour's driving.

Going slower than other cars or stopping all of a sudden can be just as bad as speeding. It tends to make cars bunch up behind you and it could cause a rear-end crash. If many cars are pulling out to pass you, move into the right lane and let them pass.

HANDLING EMERGENCIES

A road that is normally safe can become dangerous when it's slippery. Ice and packed snow on the road can cause the car to skid, especially if you are driving too fast or going downhill. If you do go into a skid, ease off the gas pedal, stop braking, and turn the steering wheel in the direction of the skid. If you can't control your car on a slippery surface, try to find something to stop you. Try to get a wheel on dry pavement or on the shoulder of the road. You may have to slowly edge into a snow bank or some bushes to stop.

To help avoid a skid on slippery surfaces:

- Drive more slowly and stay farther behind the vehicle ahead.
- Slow down as you approach curves and intersections.
- Avoid fast turns.

- Avoid quick stops. "Pump" the brakes to slow or stop. (Antilock brakes should not be pumped.)
- Shift to low gear before going down a steep hill.
- Avoid especially slippery areas, such as ice patches, wet leaves, oil, or deep puddles.

If the brakes get wet, dry them by lightly pressing the gas pedal and brake pedal at the same time so that the car drives against the pressure of the brakes. Do this only until the brakes begin working.

If You Get Into An Acceleration Skid

An acceleration skid usually involves the drive wheels and happens when the tires lose traction on the road surface. To maintain control of the vehicle, do not apply the brakes. Ease off the gas pedal and straighten the front wheels as the vehicle begins to straighten out.

If You Get Into A Locked Wheel Skid

This type of skid is usually caused by a person braking too hard at a high rate of speed and locking the wheels. The vehicle will skid no matter which way the steering wheel is turned. Take your foot off the brake to unlock the wheels. Then straighten the front wheels as the vehicle begins to straighten out. Slow the vehicle gradually until you are at a safe speed to continue your trip.

Steering Wheel Locking Device

Never turn your vehicle's ignition to the "lock" position while it is still in motion. This will cause the steering to lock if you try to turn the steering wheel and you will lose control of your vehicle.

Drive Defensively To Avoid Accidents

What is defensive driving? It is driving to defend yourself against possible accidents caused by bad drivers, drunk drivers, poor weather, and heavy traffic.

If you look ahead, and keep your eyes moving (scanning), you will spot a hazard more easily. Once you see the hazard and decide what to do, act. Never "wait and see." Never think that everything will be all right. Children playing in the street may not see you. The boy on the bike may ride in front of you. The man opening a car door in your lane may not see you. If you have an accident, you may not be legally at fault; however, you may be morally at fault, if you could have prevented the accident, but didn't. Remember, you can prevent most accidents if you drive defensively.

The Most Common Causes Of Accidents.

- Unsafe speed
- Driving on the wrong side of the road
- Improper turns
- Violation of the right-of-way rules

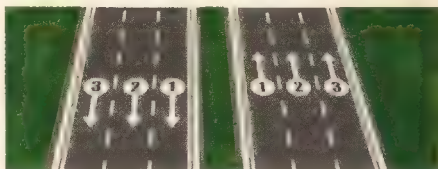
- Violation of stop signals and signs

ACCIDENTS

If you see vehicle warning hazard lights ahead, slow down. There may be an accident or other road emergency ahead. Stop and give assistance, or pass very carefully.

Radio or news reports of accidents or roadwork often refer to numbered traffic lanes. The left or "fast" lane is called the "Number 1 Lane." The lanes to the right of the #1 lane are called the #2 lane, then the #3 lane, etc.

Avoid driving near accidents. Take



another road, if you can. Those injured will be helped faster if other vehicles aren't blocking the road. If you must drive near an accident, don't slow down or stop just to look. You may cause another crash. Drive by carefully, watching for people in the road.

Never drive to the scene of an accident, fire, or other disaster to look. You may block the way for police, fire fighters, and ambulances, and you may be arrested for doing this.

It is against the law to follow closely behind any fire engine, police car, ambulance, or other emergency vehicle with a siren or flashing lights.

Obey any order from a police officer or fire fighter. Their orders should be obeyed even if you must ignore normal traffic laws or signs.

If You Are Involved In An Accident

- You must stop if you are involved in an accident. Someone could be injured and need your help. If you don't stop, you may be convicted of "hit and run" and could be severely punished.
- If anyone is hurt, call the police or CHP. Dial 9-1-1.
- If you are involved in a minor traffic collision (no one is injured or killed), move your vehicle out of the traffic lane.
- Show your driver license, registration card, evidence of financial responsibility, and current address to the other driver or persons involved, or to any peace officer.
- The driver or his or her insurance agent, broker, or legal representative must make a written accident report to:
 - the police or CHP within 24 hours of the accident if someone is killed or injured.
 - DMV if necessary (See page 67.)

- If you hit a parked vehicle or other property, leave a note with your name and address in the car or securely attached to it. Report the accident to the city police or, in unincorporated areas, to the CHP.
- If you have parked a vehicle and it rolls away, hitting another vehicle, find the owner and report to authorities as mentioned above.
- If you kill or injure an animal, call the nearest humane society or call the police or CHP. Do not try to move an injured animal. Never leave an injured animal to die.

ACTIONS RESULTING IN LOSS OF LICENSE

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

California's Compulsory Financial Responsibility Law requires every driver and every owner of a motor vehicle to maintain financial responsibility (liability coverage) at all times. There are four forms of financial responsibility:

- A motor vehicle liability insurance policy.
- A deposit of \$35,000 with DMV.
- A surety bond for \$35,000 obtained from a company licensed to do business in California.
- A DMV issued self-insurance certificate.

You must carry written evidence of financial responsibility whenever you drive and show it to a peace officer after a citation stop or accident. You may have to pay a fine or have your vehicle impounded if you don't.

If you don't have acceptable financial responsibility and have an accident, you may lose your driver license for up to four years.

INSURANCE

How Much Insurance Must You Carry?

State law says you must be financially responsible for your actions whenever you drive and for all motor vehicles you own. It is illegal to drive without being financially responsible. Most drivers choose to have a liability insurance policy as proof of financial responsibility. If you have an accident not covered by your insurance, your driver license will be suspended. If the driver is not identified, the owner of the motor vehicle involved will have his or her driver license suspended.

The minimum amount your insurance* must cover per accident is:

- \$15,000 for a single death or injury.
- \$30,000 for death or injury to more than one person.
- \$5,000 for property damage.

* Low cost automobile policies are established for Los Angeles and San Francisco counties. Please contact your insurance agent.

Before you purchase insurance, make sure the agent/broker and insurer you select are licensed by the California Department of Insurance. Call 1-800-927-HELP to determine the license status and obtain additional information.

If you are visiting California, or have just moved here, you should be aware that many out-of-state insurance companies are not authorized to do business in California. Before you drive here, ask your insurance company if you are covered in case of an accident. Should you become involved in an accident in California, all three of the following conditions must be met to avoid suspension of your driving privilege:

1. Your liability policy must provide bodily injury and property damage coverage which equals or exceeds the limits stated above;
2. Your insurance company must file a power of attorney, allowing the DMV to act as its agent for legal service in California; and
3. You must have insured the vehicle before you came to California. You cannot renew the out-of-state policy once the vehicle is registered in California.

Reporting The Accident To DMV

When you have an accident, you must report it to the DMV if:

- More than \$750 in damage was done to the property of any person. (\$500 for accidents prior to 1/1/2003.)
- Anyone was injured (no matter how slightly) or killed.

Each driver must make a report to the DMV. This can also be done by the driver's insurance agent or broker or legal representative. The CHP or police will not make this report for you.

You must make this report, whether you caused the accident or not and even if the accident occurred on private property. Report the accident within 10 days. Make the report on the California Traffic Accident Report form SR 1. You can get this form from any DMV or CHP office. You can also download it from DMV's website (www.dmv.ca.gov). If you don't make this report to DMV, your driving privilege will be suspended. If you did not have the proper insurance coverage, your driving privilege will be suspended for four years. During the last three years of the suspension, your license can be returned if you provide a California Insurance Proof Certificate (SR 22) and maintain it during this period.

Accidents On Your Record

Every accident reported to DMV by law enforcement shows on your driving record unless the reporting officer says another person was at fault. Every accident reported by you, or another party in the

accident, shows on your record if any one person has over \$750 in damage or if anyone is injured or dies (\$500 for accidents prior to 1/1/2003.) It does not matter who caused the accident. The law says DMV must keep this record.

Accidents, Insurance, and Minors

If you are under 18 years of age, your parents sign your license application and take responsibility if you drive any vehicle, minibike, or moped without a license. Your parents accept liability up to \$35,000 for any one accident. This assumption of liability may be voided if they ask DMV to cancel your license. The parents' liability automatically ceases when you reach age 18.

If you are involved in an accident you may be liable for civil damages. If the accident involved a law violation, then you may also be fined.

DRINKING/DRIVING OR BOATING

Some Basic Facts

Do not drive a vehicle or operate a vessel after having alcoholic drinks. A vessel driving-under-the-influence (DUI) conviction will show on your driver record and you may lose your driver license.

With a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) that is 0.08% or more, it is illegal for drivers 21 years of age and older to:

- Drive vehicles or
- Operate any vessel other than a recreational vehicle.

With a BAC that is 0.04% or more, it is illegal for drivers 21 years of age and older to:

- Drive commercial vehicles or
- Operate any vessel other than a recreational vessel.

With a BAC that is 0.01% or more, it is illegal for drivers under 21 years of age to:

- Drive vehicles or
- Operate any vessel, aquaplane, water skis, or similar devices. You are subject to fine, jail, and participation in an alcohol education or community service program.

A BAC below legal limits does not mean that it is safe to drive. Almost all drivers show the effects of alcohol at levels lower than the legal limit. (Minors, see the Zero Tolerance information on page 70.)

Drivers 21 and Older

If you are convicted of driving with alcohol or drugs in your body, the judge may sentence you to 48 hours to six months in jail. You will have to pay from \$390 to \$1,000 in fines (penalty assessment extra), the first time you are convicted. In addition, you will lose your license for six months, or DMV will restrict your driving privilege. You will also be required to complete a licensed DUI program, file a certificate of

insurance (SR 22), and pay restriction and reissue fees. If the vehicle is registered in your name, the court may take your vehicle away for up to six months. You will have to pay for storage fees.

If you are convicted of a DUI twice within seven years, the court must punish you with time in jail (up to a year), a fine up to \$1,000, and will take your vehicle for up to twelve months. You will lose your license for two years. After completion of 12 months of the suspension period, you may obtain a restricted license if you enroll in a DUI program, have an ignition interlock device (IID) installed on your vehicle, file a certificate of insurance (SR 22) with DMV, and pay the restriction and reissue fees.

If you are convicted a third time within seven years, you will lose your driver license for up to three years, pay a fine up to \$1000, have your vehicle impounded for up to twelve months, and spend from three months to one year in jail. After completion of 18 months of the revocation period, you may apply for a restricted driver license if you complete a DUI program, install an IID on your vehicle, file an SR 22 with DMV, and pay the restriction and reissue fees.

Completion of a DUI program is required for all DUI convictions.

In cases involving death or serious bodily injury, you may be punished

under California's "Three Strikes Law." You could also face a civil lawsuit.

The law is very strict about carrying alcohol or drugs in a vehicle whether the vehicle is on or off the highway. You must not drink any alcoholic drink in any vehicle.

A container of liquor, beer, or wine carried inside the vehicle must be full, sealed, and unopened. Otherwise, it must be put in the trunk or a place where passengers don't sit. Keeping an opened container of an alcoholic drink in the glove compartment is specifically against the law.

In a bus, taxi, camper, or motor home, the law does not apply to non-driving passengers.

See page 82 for the Designated Driver Program.

Drivers Under 21

Teenagers are more than twice as likely as adult drivers to be involved in an alcohol-related fatal crash.

If you are under 21 years of age:

- It is against the law to purchase beer, wine, or hard liquor.
- The court may take away your vehicle for up to six months if you are convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (DUI). You will have to pay storage fees.
- And convicted of a first DUI, you may have to spend time in jail and pay a fine. DMV must revoke your driver license for

one year or until you are 18, whichever is longer. You must show proof of insurance, and pay a DMV reissue fee.

- It is against the law to carry on your person or in the car any alcoholic beverage unless you are with your parent:

Exceptions:

- transporting alcoholic beverages as part of your job.
- making a delivery of an alcoholic beverage at the order of your parent or legal guardian.

Why Is Drinking And Driving So Dangerous?

You lose your judgment when you drink or use drugs. It is often the first thing about you that changes. Loss of judgment, or good sense, affects how you react to sounds, what you see, and the speed of other vehicles around you. It takes about an hour for the body to get rid of each "drink." If a person has had more than one drink an hour, one hour of "sobering up" time should be allowed for each extra drink. *Better still, someone who has not been drinking should drive.* See the information on the Designated Driver Program on page 82.

What Is The Limit? Zero Tolerance Law

The law is stricter for drivers under 21 years of age. What is the limit? Zero is the limit. It is unlawful for

a person under 21 years of age to drive with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.01% or higher as measured by a preliminary alcohol screening (PAS) test or other chemical test.

DRUGS AND DRIVING

Much of what has been said about alcohol also applies to drugs. The state's drunk driving law is also a drug driving law. It refers to "driving under the influence of alcohol **and/or** drugs." If an officer suspects that you are under the influence of drugs, the officer can require that you take a blood or urine test. Persons who refuse these tests are subject to longer license suspensions and revocations.

The use of any drug (and the law does not distinguish between prescription, over-the-counter, or illegal drugs) which impairs your driving is illegal. Many medicines can affect the way one drives. Alcohol can enhance some of the dangerous side effects of many drugs, even those that are prescribed by your physician or purchased over the counter. Check with your physician or pharmacist if you are not sure you should drive after taking any medication. Read the warning label. Here are some facts:

- Most drugs taken for colds, hay fever, allergy, or to calm nerves can make a person drowsy.
- Medicines taken together, or used with alcohol can be dangerous. Many drugs have

unexpected side effects when taken with alcohol.

- Pep pills, "uppers," and diet pills can make a driver more alert for a short time. Later, however, they can cause a person to be nervous, dizzy, and not able to concentrate. They can also affect vision.
- Any drug that "may cause drowsiness or dizziness" is one you should not take before driving. Make sure you read the label and know the effects of any drug you use.

ADMINISTRATIVE PER SE

When you drive in California, you consent to take a test of your breath, blood, or urine (under certain circumstances) if you are arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of both.

A Preliminary Alcohol Screening (PAS), or other chemical test, is also required if you are under 21 years of age and detained because the officer believes you have been drinking any amount of alcohol (see Zero Tolerance on page 70). If you have a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08% or more, or you refuse, or fail to complete a test, the peace officer will take away your license, and at the same time serve you with an order of suspension or revocation. The suspension or revocation takes effect in 30 days. You have ten days from your arrest date to request a hearing. A stay of the



ALCOHOL IMPAIRMENT CHART

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL AND/OR DRUGS IS ILLEGAL

Prepared by DMV in cooperation with the C&P, Office of Traffic Safety, Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, and Department of Justice.

There is no safe way to drive while under the influence. Even one drink can make you an unsafe driver. Drinking affects your **BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION (BAC)**. It is illegal to drive with a BAC of .08% or more (.04% or more if you drive commercial vehicles or .01% or more if under 21). Even a BAC below .08% does not mean that it is safe or legal to drive. The charts show the BAC zones for various numbers of drinks and time periods.

HOW TO USE THESE CHARTS: Find the chart that includes your weight. Look at the total number of drinks you have had and compare that to the time shown. You can quickly tell if you are at risk of being arrested* if your BAC level is in the grey zone, your chances of having an accident are 5 times higher than if you had no drinks, and 25 times higher if your BAC level falls into the black zone.

REMEMBER: "One drink" is a 1 1/2-ounce shot of 80-proof liquor (even if it's mixed with non-alcoholic drinks), a 4-ounce glass of wine, or 10 ounces of 5.7% beer. If you have larger or stronger drinks, drink on an empty stomach, are tired, sick, upset, or have taken medicines or drugs you can be **UNSAFE WITH FEWER DRINKS**.

TECHNICAL NOTE: These charts are guides and are not legal evidence of actual BAC. Although it is possible for anyone to exceed the designated limits, the charts have been constructed so that fewer than 5 persons in 100 will exceed these limits when drinking the stated amounts on an empty stomach. Actual values can vary by body type, sex, health status, and other factors.

*VC §23152, §23153, §23136, §23140 DUI/Driving under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs.

| BAC Zones: 90 to 109 lbs. | | | | | | | | | | 110 to 129 lbs. | | | | | | | | 130 to 149 lbs. | | | | | | | | 150 to 169 lbs. | | | | | | | | 170 to 189 lbs. | | | | | | | | 190 to 209 lbs. | | | | | | | | 210 lbs. & Up | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| TIME FROM 1st DRINK | | TOTAL DRINKS | | | | | | | | TOTAL DRINKS | | | | | | | | TOTAL DRINKS | | | | | | | | TOTAL DRINKS | | | | | | | | TOTAL DRINKS | | | | | | | | TOTAL DRINKS | | | | | | | | TOTAL DRINKS | | | | | | | |
| 1 hr | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | | | | | | | |
| 2 hrs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 hrs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 hrs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

CHART SHADINGS MEAN: ☐ (.01%-.04%) May be DUI — **DEFINITELY UNLAWFUL IF UNDER 21 YRS, OLD**** ☐ (.05%-.07%) Likely DUI — **DEFINITELY UNLAWFUL IF UNDER 21 YRS, OLD** ☐ (.08% Up) Definitely DUI ** NOTE: It is unlawful for anyone under 21 years of age to drive with a BAC of .01% or higher. If caught driving with a .01% BAC or higher, the driving privilege is lost for one year.

DL 506 (REV. 10/2002)

THE COST OF A DRINK

If you drink and drive these are the costs you could pay for a DUI:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Vehicle towing and storage | \$187 |
| Booking, fingerprinting, and photo fee | \$156 |
| Driver license reinstatement fee | \$125 |
| Car insurance increase | \$2700 |
| DUI fine | \$480 |
| Assessment for the court system | \$816 |
| Community service fee | \$44 |
| DUI victims fund | \$100 |
| Alcohol abuse education fund | \$50 |
| DUI classes | \$550 |
| DUI Victims' Impact sessions | \$20 |
| Time payment charge | \$35 |
| Total fees, fines, and assessments | \$5,263* |

* If you use an attorney, add \$2,000

**THERE IS NO SAFE WAY TO DRIVE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE.
EVEN ONE DRINK CAN MAKE YOU AN UNSAFE DRIVER.**

action will be granted only if the hearing is requested within 10 days after the arrest date on the order and the department cannot provide a hearing before the effective date of the action. The issues at the hearing are only the facts related to the arrest or detention and the tests, not whether or not you need a driver license.

If you are arrested because a police officer suspects you have alcohol in your body, you will be required to take a breath, blood, or urine test (under certain circumstances) to see if it is true. If you are suspected of being under the influence of a drug or a combination of drugs and alcohol, you will be required to take a blood or urine test (under certain circumstances). If you are taken to a clinic or hospital for medical reasons, you must take one of the tests available at that facility. You do not have the right to talk to a lawyer or to have one present before deciding which test to take, or during the test.

The suspension or revocation is independent of any jail, fine, or other criminal penalty imposed in court for the driving under the influence offense.

How Long Will I Be Suspended Or Revoked?

If you did not take, or you failed to complete, a chemical test:

- First offense—Suspended 1 year.
- Second offense in 7 years—Revoked 2 years.

- Three or more offenses in 7 years—Revoked 3 years.

If you took a chemical test and the test results showed 0.08% or more BAC :

- First offense—Suspended for 4 months.
- One or more prior offenses in 7 years—Suspended for 1 year.

If the BAC is 0.01% or higher or the person refuses to take, or fails to complete the test, DMV will suspend the person's driving privilege for one year on the first offense.

Restricted License

A restricted license (only for first offense of 0.08% or more BAC) can be issued following a 30-day suspension if a chemical test was taken and you were at least 21 years of age when the offense occurred.

You may obtain a:

- Restricted license for driving to and from a state licensed DUI program
- Five-month restricted license to operate to and from work and driving during the course of employment and to and from the activities of a licensed DUI program if you:
 - submit evidence of enrollment in a DUI program.
 - file proof of insurance (SR 22) and maintain it for three years.
 - pay all applicable fees.

If you enroll and fail to participate or you do not complete the licensed DUI program, DMV will immediately revoke your restricted license and reimpose the suspension. It will run for the remainder of your original suspension.

Ignition Interlock

An ignition interlock device (IID) is a hand-held breath testing device which is connected to the vehicle and requires the driver to take a breath test for alcohol each time the vehicle is started.

Courts:

- Are required to order the IID restriction on any person convicted of driving on a suspended or revoked license based on a DUI offense. (VC §14601.2)
- May order the IID restriction on any DUI offense.

Any person whose driving privilege is revoked for multiple DUI offenses may apply for a restricted license after serving a specified period of the revocation and if the person complies with certain requirements.

The IID restriction will be in effect for the rest of the original suspension or revocation period and until all reinstatement requirements are met.

**GOOD JUDGMENT
MAY BE NOTHING MORE
THAN SAYING NO!**

NEGLIGENT DRIVING AND LOSS OF LICENSE FOR ADULTS

If you are stopped by a police officer and cited for a traffic law violation, you sign a promise to appear in traffic court. When you go to court, you may plead guilty or not guilty, or you may forfeit (pay) bail. Paying bail is the same as a guilty plea.

If you ignore the traffic ticket and don't keep your promise to appear in court, the failure to appear (FTA) goes on your driver record. If you fail to pay a fine (FTP), the court will notify DMV and this will also show on your driver record. Even one FTA or FTP can cause the department to suspend your license. Ending the suspension will cost you a reissue fee of \$55.

Each time you are convicted of a moving traffic law violation, the court notifies the DMV. The conviction is placed on your driver license record. Convictions reported by other states are also added to your driver record.

POINTS ON THE DRIVER RECORD

The department keeps a public record of all your traffic convictions and accidents. Each occurrence stays on your record for 36 months or longer, depending on the type of conviction.

You may be considered a negligent operator of a motor vehicle when your driving record shows any one of the following "point count" totals regardless of your license class:

4 points in 12 months

6 points in 24 months

8 points in 36 months

Examples of **one** point violations:

- A traffic conviction.
- An at-fault accident.

Examples of **two** point violations:

- Reckless driving
- Driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs
- Hit-and-run driving
- Evading a peace officer
- Driving while suspended or revoked
- Driving on the wrong side of the road.

If you get too many "points," you will lose your driver license. A violation received in a commercial vehicle carries one and one-half times the point count normally assessed.

ACTIONS AGAINST THE PROVISIONAL LICENSE

Teenagers as a group have more accidents than most other drivers averaging twice as many accidents as adult drivers, while driving only half as many miles. This makes the teenage accident rate per mile four times as great as that of adult drivers.

Studies in the U.S. and other countries show that a common factor in the traffic deaths of new

drivers is a deadly combination of their inexperience, their lack of familiarity with their car, and their need to push themselves and their vehicle to the limit.

You have many limitations when you first begin driving. You must think about every movement of your body and car. Maneuvers such as steering, which you must now concentrate on, will eventually become habits that you do without thinking. As a new driver, you will be focusing your attention on the basics of driving. Don't become over confident in your driving ability. Don't attempt unknown, or risky driving maneuvers before you've had enough driving experience to ensure your safety. Develop your ability to react correctly and to control your car *first*.

You are taking a risk if you attempt to drive when ill, sleepy, or upset. Know when your driving ability is limited and drive only when you have good control of your car.

Traffic Violations Increase Accidents

Nearly half of all new drivers 15 to 19 are convicted of a traffic violation in their first year of driving.

Speeding (which often results in loss of vehicle control) is the most common moving violation for teenage drivers. About 50% of all their traffic convictions are speed violations.

When you violate traffic laws, you increase your chances of having an accident.

Teenage Traffic Deaths

Drivers 15 to 19 years old have very high traffic *accident*, *injury*, and *conviction* rates. Traffic accidents are the leading cause of death for teenagers. If you are under 18 years old, your risk of a fatal accident is about 2½ times that of the “average” driver. Your risk of an injury accident is three times higher than the average driver.

How To Keep Your Provisional License

The department will be watching your driving record very closely and will take actions based upon the accidents or violations that appear on your driver record. Here is what will happen:

- If you get a traffic ticket, but do not appear in court DMV will suspend your driving privilege until you appear in court.
- If you get a traffic ticket and fail to pay the fine, DMV will suspend your driving privilege until you pay the fine.
- If you have one “at fault” accident or conviction within 12 months, the DMV will send you a warning letter.
- After a second “at fault” accident or conviction (or combination of both) within 12 months, you cannot drive for 30 days unless accompanied by your parent or other licensed adult who is at least 25 years of age.
- After a third “at fault” accident or conviction (or any

combination) within 12 months, you will be suspended for six months and be placed on probation for one year.

- If you have additional “at fault” accidents or point count convictions while your driving privilege is on probation, you will be suspended again. (Traffic law violations resolved in Juvenile court are also reported to DMV.)
- If you are convicted of using alcohol or a controlled substance and you are between the ages of 13 and 21, the court will tell DMV to suspend you for one year. If you don’t have a driver license yet, the court will tell DMV to make you wait a year longer before you can apply for a license. You can also be required to go to a DUI program.

Any restriction, suspension or probation will continue past your 18th birthday for its full term.

Other, *stronger* actions can be taken if your driving record justifies them. Remember, when your driving privilege has been suspended or revoked, you may not drive in California with any license or permit.

Vandalism—All Ages

Vandalism is defacing property with paint or any other liquid or by scraping or writing on any surface. The court will suspend, restrict, or delay for one year the driving privilege of a minor age 13 years or older.

Adult drivers will also have their licenses suspended for one year if convicted of similar acts of vandalism.

Habitual Truant—Persons Age 13 To 18

The court will suspend, restrict, delay, or revoke your driving privilege for one year if you are convicted of being a habitual truant from school.

Possessing Firearms

The court will:

- Suspend or revoke the driving privilege of any minor convicted of possessing a concealable weapon or live ammunition or
- Impose driver license sanctions for minors convicted of misdemeanors involving firearms.

TRAFFIC VIOLATOR SCHOOL DISMISSALS

When a driver is cited for a traffic violation, the judge *may* offer the driver the opportunity to attend a Traffic Violator School. Drivers may participate once in any 18-month period to have a citation dismissed. Only one ticket can be removed from the driving record this way.

The course gives participants an understanding of traffic safety by emphasizing driver responsibility, proper driver attitude, and traffic laws.

Traffic Violator Schools are located throughout the state, however, not all counties participate in the program.

SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION BY DMV

If you get too many negligent driver points (see page 76), DMV will place you on probation for one year (which includes a six-month suspension) or revoke your driving privilege. You are entitled to a hearing if your request is postmarked or received within ten days of receiving the suspension or revocation order.

At the hearing, you will have the opportunity to present evidence (documentation) and testify on your behalf to show why your license should not be suspended or revoked. Based on all the evidence, the hearing officer will determine if your license will be suspended, placed on probation, or revoked. At the end of the suspension or revocation period, you may apply for a new license and you must show proof of financial responsibility.

NOTE: DMV will revoke your license for a conviction of hit-and-run driving or reckless driving which results in injury.

SUSPENSION BY JUDGE

A judge may suspend the license of anyone convicted:

- Of breaking speed laws or reckless driving for up to:

**EVEN ONE DRINK CAN MAKE
YOU AN IMPAIRED DRIVER**

- 30 days on the first conviction,
- 60 days on a second conviction, and
- six months on a third or subsequent conviction.
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Hit-and-run.
- Engaging in lewd conduct and prostitution in a vehicle within 1000 feet of a residence.
- Assaulting a driver, passenger, bicyclist, or pedestrian when the offense occurs on a highway (road rage). The person may be required to complete a court-approved anger management course.
- Failure to stop as required at a railway grade crossing.
- Felony or misdemeanor offense of recklessly fleeing a law enforcement officer.

Regardless of point count, many serious offenses in which a vehicle is used are punishable by heavy penalties such as fines and/or imprisonment.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

HOW TO REFER AN UNSAFE DRIVER

If you are concerned for the safety of a family member, friend, or other person who can no longer drive safely, you may write to your local Driver Safety Office or the address given below. The form is also available on DMV's website at www.dmv.ca.gov. Provide the person's name, birth date, driver license number and current address, and explain what you observed that led you to believe the person is an unsafe driver. The letter must be signed; **however, you may request that your name be kept confidential.** Mail your letter to:

Department of Motor Vehicles
Driver Safety Actions Unit
M/S J234
P.O. Box 942890
Sacramento, CA 94290-0001

DMV will contact the person for a reexamination and he or she could be suspended depending on the person's driving record. A driving test will be given to any person when a:

- Physician reports the person has lapses of consciousness.
- Traffic officer requests a DMV review and the officer believes the driver is incapable of operating a vehicle safely.
- Relative makes a good-faith report to DMV stating the driver cannot safely operate a vehicle.

VISION

You need good vision to drive safely. Most of what you do behind the wheel is based on what you see. If you cannot see clearly, you cannot judge distances or spot trouble, so you won't be able to do something about it. You need to see "out of the corner of your eye." This lets you spot cars creeping up on either side of you while your eyes are on the road ahead.

You may see clearly and still not be able to judge distances. Good distance judgment is important to know how far you are from other cars. Many people who may see clearly in the daytime have trouble at night. Some see poorly in dim light. Others may have trouble with the glare of headlights.

It is important to have your eyes checked every year or two. You may never know about poor peripheral vision or poor distance judgment unless your eyes are checked.

HEARING

Hearing is more important to driving than many people realize. Your hearing can warn you of danger—the sound of horns, a siren, or screeching tires. Sometimes you can hear a car that you cannot see because it is in your blind spot.

Even people with good hearing cannot hear well if the radio, CD, or tape deck is blaring. While driving, don't wear a headset or

earplugs in both ears. It is against the law.

Hearing problems, like bad eyesight, can come on so slowly that you do not notice them. Drivers who know they are deaf or hearing-impaired can adjust. They can learn to rely more on their seeing habits. A right hand rear view mirror on the vehicle will help.

ALERTNESS

When you are tired, you are less alert. The body naturally wants to sleep at night and most drivers are less alert at night, especially after midnight. You may not see hazards as soon or react as quickly, so the chance of a crash is greater. If you are sleepy, the only safe cure is to get off the road and get some sleep.

To keep from getting tired on a long trip:

- Get a lot of rest before you start—at least a normal night's sleep.
- Don't take any drugs that can make you drowsy—even the night before you start.
- Don't drive long hours. Driving straight through can be dangerous if you are tired and sleepy.
- Try not to drive late at night. Your body is used to going to sleep at that time.
- Take regular rest stops, even if you are not tired.
- Keep shifting your eyes from one part of the road to another.

Look at objects near and far, left and right.

- Try chewing gum or singing along with the radio.
- Roll your window down and get some fresh air in your face.
- If you are tired all the time and fall asleep often during the day, you should have your physician check for a sleep disorder.

MEDICATIONS

It is important to remember that all medications, prescription and over-the-counter, are potentially dangerous.

Over-the-counter medicines that you take for colds and allergies can make you drowsy and affect your driving ability. Carefully read and follow the directions about dosage and side effects. Pay close attention to warnings about continued dosage and who should and should not take the medication.

Under no circumstances should you mix medications unless directed by your physician.

Never take medications prescribed for someone else.

Do not mix alcohol with your medications. This applies to both prescribed and over-the-counter medications.

If you must take medication before driving, find out the effects of the medication from your physician or pharmacist. Remember—even though you may feel fine, you may

not be totally free of the adverse effects that can affect your driving. **It is your responsibility to know the effects of the medications you take.**

HEALTH AND EMOTIONS

Whether you are calm, nervous, or hot-tempered, your personality affects the way you drive. Don't let your emotions interfere with safe driving. Use all the good judgment, common sense, courtesy, and safe driving rules that you can.

Some conditions, such as poor vision, heart problems, diabetes, or epilepsy may affect your driving. Discuss your condition with your physician and follow his or her advice. You should also let DMV know of any condition you have that might affect your ability to drive safely.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITIONS PHYSICIANS ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT

Health and Safety Code §103900 requires physicians and surgeons to report patients at least 14 years of age who are diagnosed as having lapses of consciousness, dementia (mental disorders) conditions, or related disorders.

Although not required by law, any other condition may be reported by physicians when they believe a patient cannot drive safely because of a medical condition.

HAVE YOUR EYES CHECKED EVERY YEAR

MISCELLANEOUS

IDENTIFICATION (ID) CARD

DMV issues ID cards to persons of any age. To obtain an original ID card, you must present a birth date/legal presence verification document (see page 1) and provide your social security number. For a replacement or renewal ID card, bring a photo ID. The fee for a REGULAR ID card is \$6. The card is good until the sixth birthday after it is issued.

If you are age 62 or over, you may obtain a SENIOR CITIZEN ID card. The fee is \$3 and the card is good for 10 years.

See page 14 to change your address.

FREE ID CARDS FOR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITIONS

Drivers who are no longer able to drive safely because of a physical or mental condition may exchange a valid driver license for a no-fee ID card if certain guidelines are met. Please call your local DMV for additional information.

CHANGE OF NAME ON ID CARDS

If you change your name you will need a new ID card. Take your old ID card to a DMV office in person. The required fee will be collected.

A new picture and thumb print will be taken. Your old ID card will be invalidated and returned to you.

If you also have a driver license, you must change your ID card at the same time. You cannot have identification in two different names.

See page 1 for true full name verification requirements.

MEDICAL INFORMATION CARD

At any DMV office you may obtain a free card (DMV form DL 390) on which to list your blood type, allergies, name of your physician, and other medical information. It can be carried along with your DL/ID card.

ORGAN DONOR (GIFT OF LIFE PROGRAM)

If you are at least 18 years old, you may donate your body, body parts, or a pacemaker for medical transplantation, research, or both after your death. The department can supply you with a donor card (DL 290) to be carried with your DL/ID card and a donor sticker to be placed on the front of your DL/ID card. The card can also be used to show you do not wish to be a donor. Donors should share their decision with family members.

DESIGNATED DRIVER PROGRAM

The Designated Driver Program is an anti-DUI effort that works. It has been saluted by its proponents as a program that

takes a positive approach to averting the potential disaster of the drinking driver. The goal of the program is to encourage one individual to abstain from consuming alcoholic beverages for an outing so that he or she can be responsible for transporting the other members of the group safely. Many licensed eating and drinking establishments participate in the program by providing complimentary nonalcoholic beverages or other incentives.

To participate as a designated driver, an individual:

- Must possess a valid driver license.
- Should be at least 21 years of age.
- Must be part of a group of two or more persons.
- Must verbally identify himself or herself as the designated driver to the server.
- Must abstain from consuming alcoholic beverages for the duration of the outing.
- Must not be an otherwise impaired driver.
- Must understand that management reserves the right to refuse service to anyone at anytime.

DUI related deaths have declined significantly over the past ten years. Programs such as Designated Driver have contributed to that trend.

The success of the Designated Driver Program serves as an example of the spirit of cooperation



between individuals, private business, and local agencies.

DIPLOMATIC DRIVER LICENSE

Nonresidents who possess a valid diplomatic driver license issued by the Diplomatic Vehicle Office of the Office of Foreign Missions of the U.S. Department of State are exempt from California's driver licensing requirement.

DRIVING SCHOOLS

The driver training you receive establishes your driving habits for the rest of your life. When learning to drive, you should seek qualified instruction either in public or private high schools or in state licensed professional driving schools.

Professional schools and instructors in California are licensed by the DMV after meeting rigid qualifying standards. Schools must carry liability insurance, be bonded, and maintain complete records for DMV inspection.

Vehicles are subject to annual inspection. Instructors must pass a qualifying examination, both written and driving, every three years, or show proof of continuing education in the traffic safety field. If you use the services of a professional driving school, ask to see the instructor's identification card.

MATURE DRIVER PROGRAM

The Mature Driver Program is an eight-hour course available from some insurance companies for drivers aged 55 and older. The course covers a variety of topics of special interest to the mature driver. Health and driving performance, the effects of medications on driving, and compensating for vision and hearing impairments are a few of the subject areas covered in the class.

The insurance company may offer discounts for those who complete the class and receive a completion certificate.

RENEWAL BY MAIL

Many drivers may renew their licenses by mail without taking a law test. They can do this if:

- Their current license expires before age 70.
- They do not have a probationary license (VC §14250).
- They did not violate a written promise to appear in court within the last two years.
- They are not suspended for driving with an illegal BAC

level, or for refusing, or for failing to complete, a chemical or preliminary alcohol screening test within the last two years.

- They do not have a total violation point count greater than one.
- They have not already received two consecutive four- or five-year extensions.

AVAILABILITY OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS

Your Record Is Public

Most information in your driver license file is available to the public. Your residence address may only be viewed by law enforcement agencies, courts, other governmental agencies, and certain commercial requesters. Police, insurance companies, and others examine hundreds of thousands of driver records each year. Your mailing address, if different from your residence, is less restricted and may be given to requesters who provide a valid reason for wanting the information. If you receive mail at your residence, then giving DMV your mailing address is optional. Records on the physical or mental condition of a driver, and Social Security Numbers, however, remain confidential.

You may obtain a copy of your driving record at any DMV office for a small fee. You will be required to show valid identification before the information is released.

Recycle

Used Motor Oil and Filters

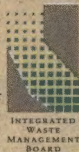


For a recycling center near you, call:

1-800-CLEANUP

Congratulations California!

Since 1990 we have recycled 200 million tons of usable material instead of putting it into garbage. By reusing and recycling, we are keeping 42 percent of the waste stream out of California landfills. That conserves natural resources and energy, creates jobs, and saves landfill space —and that saves us all money. To learn more about how you can help solve California's trash problem, visit the Integrated Waste Management Board at www.ciwmb.ca.gov.



WHERE TO WRITE

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this publication, please send them to:

Department of Motor Vehicles
Customer Communications Section
M/S C165
P.O. Box 932345
Sacramento, CA 94232-3450

SAMPLE TEST

1. It is a very windy day. You are driving and a dust storm blows across the freeway reducing your visibility. You should drive slower and turn on your:
Interior lights
Parking lights
Headlights
2. At intersections, crosswalks, and railroad crossings, you should always:
Stop, listen, and proceed cautiously
Look to the sides of your vehicle to see what is coming
Slowly pass vehicles that seem to be stopped for no reason
3. All of the following practices are dangerous to do while driving. Which of these is also illegal?
Listening to music through headphones that cover both ears
Adjusting your outside mirrors
Transporting an unrestrained animal inside the vehicle
4. When can you drive in a bike lane?
During rush hour traffic if there are no bicyclists in the bike lane
When you are within 200 feet of a cross street where you plan to turn right
When you want to pass a driver ahead of you who is turning right.
5. A solid yellow line next to a broken yellow line means that vehicles:
In both directions may pass
Next to the broken line may pass
Next to the solid line may pass

Visit DMV's home page at www.dmv.ca.gov for more sample tests.

ANSWERS

1. Headlights
2. Look to the sides of your vehicle to see what is coming.
3. Listening to music through headphones that cover both ears.
4. When you are within 200 feet of a cross street where you plan to turn right.
5. Next to the broken line may pass.

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higher.

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